PLANT FACT SHEET

Vachellia lahai (Steud. & Hochst. ex Benth.) Kyal. & Boatwr.

GENUS *Vachellia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Red thorn

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Gum

DESCRIPTION

A flat topped tree. It grows 3-15 m high. The bark is rough and dark grey or brown and cracked. The young branches are dark purple to black. They have soft hairs. There are prickles in pairs. The spines can be 7 cm long. The leaves are compound. They have 3-15 pairs of leaflet stalks with 10-28 pairs of leaflets. These are 2-5 mm long by up to 1 mm wide. The flowers are cream or white. They are in spikes 3-7 cm long. The fruit is a brown pod. It is 4-7 cm long by 2-3 cm wide. The seeds are oval and flattened. They are 6-7 mm long by 5 mm wide.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It is resistant to drought and grows in stony and rocky sites. It occurs between 1,200-1,650 m above sea level and can be higher. It grows where the average temperature is 21°-40°C and the mean annual rainfall is 250-750 mm. It grows on neutral or alkaline soils that are well-drained.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seeds. It can be managed by lopping.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It grows quickly.

NOTES

Also as Mimosaceae.

REFERENCES

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Katende, A.B., Birnie, A & Tengnas B., 1995, Useful Trees and Shrubs for Uganda. Identification, Propagation and Management for Agricultural and Pastoral Communities. Technical handbook No 10. Regional Soil Conservation Unit, Nairobi, Kenya. p 48 (As Acacia lahai)

www.worldagroforestrycentre.org/sea/products/afdbases/af (As Acacia lahai)

World Checklist of Useful Plant Species 2020. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/10f89ce8-564f-4664-98d3-1f942d52e9b5