PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Vachellia tortilis subsp. spirocarpa* (Hochst. ex A Rich.) Kyal. & Boatwr.

**GENUS** *Vachellia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Umbrella thorn

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Seeds, Bark, Leaves, Fruit

The bark is chewed to relieve thirst.
The pods are eaten after the seeds have been removed.
The seeds are occasionally eaten.

## DESCRIPTION

A shrub or tree. It grows 3-20 m high. It loses its leaves during the year. It is spiny. The leaves have 3-10 pairs of pinnae with 7-15 pairs of leaflets. The flowers are creamy-white. In this subspecies the pods are curved or coiled and hairy. They are yellow brown. They are slightly constricted between the seeds.

## HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. It grows in hot arid places with a marked dry season. It grows in areas with an annual rainfall above 150 mm. It can grow in alkaline soils. It grows between 520-1,275 m above sea level. It can tolerate drought. It can grow in arid places.

## PRODUCTION

### Harvesting and Seed Production

It grows quickly.

## NOTES

There are about 1,350 Acacia species. Over 1,000 occur in Australia. Also as Mimosaceae.

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**PROVIDED BY** **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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