PLANT FACT SHEET

Acacia xiphophylla E. Pritzel

GENUS *Acacia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Snake wood

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Gum

The seeds are eaten. The gum is eaten. The gum can be stored.

DESCRIPTION

A spreading tree 4-6 m high and spreading 3-6 m wide. It is low, stunted and bent. The outer bark is fibrous and twisted. The branches are hairy at first but loose their hairs. The leaves (phyllodes) are 6-8 cm long by 0.5-1 cm wide. They are long and fatter at the centre tapering towards the ends. They stick outwards and have a sharp point. They are grey-green and flat. The veins are prominent. The flower heads are pale yellow and like rods. They are 1.5 cm long by 0.5 cm across. There is one flower in each angle where leaves join the stem. The pods are 6-11 cm long by 0.6 cm wide. They are straight and light brown.

HABITAT

It is more common in tropical northern Australia. It probably needs well drained soil and plenty of sunlight. It tends to grow as a clump of trees together in creek beds, often on red soils.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is grown from seed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is slow growing and long lived.

NOTES

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

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