PLANT FACT SHEET

Vachellia nilotica subsp. tomentosa (L.) Willd. ex Del.; (Benth.) Brenan

GENUS *Vachellia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Gum arabic tree, Egyptian mimosa

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Leaves, Pods

The young pods are cooked and eaten.
The seeds are roasted and serve as a spice.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows to 10 m high. The bark is black. It cracks to reveal a rusty red layer. The bark exudes a sticky reddish resin. It loses its leaves during the year. It has spines. The leaves are twice divided. The flowers are in round heads. The fruit are grey-white and felty.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in areas with annual rainfalls between 100-1,000 mm. It can grow in arid places.

NOTES

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

REFERENCES

Barwick, M., 2004, Tropical and Subtropical Trees. A Worldwide Encyclopedic Guide. Thames and Hudson p 4 (As Acacia nilotica subsp. tomentosa)

Jardin, C., 1970, List of Foods Used In Africa, FAO Nutrition Information Document Series No 2.p 24, 50 (As Acacia nilotica subsp. tomentosa)

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (1999). Survey of Economic Plants for Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (SEPASAL) database. Published on the Internet; http://www.rbgkew.org.uk/ceb/sepasal/internet [Accessed 26th April 2011] (As Acacia nilotica subsp. tomentosa)

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