PLANT FACT SHEET

Senegalia laeta (R. Br. ex Benth.) Seigler & Ebinger

GENUS *Senegalia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Black-hooked thorn

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Gum

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. There are 2 curved black prickles. It loses its leaves during the year. It grows 6 m high. The leaves are 4-8 mm long. The flowers are white or cream. They are in spikes 3-8 cm long. It is similar to Acacia senegal. The fruit are pods that are flat and light brown. They are 4-8 cm long and 2-3 cm wide. The seeds are 9-10 mm across.

HABITAT

It is a sub tropical plant. It grows in the Sahel. It grows in hot arid places. It grows in areas with a mean annual temperature between 21-40°C. It grows in areas with an annual rainfall between 250-800 mm. It grows in stony or rocky sites. It is very resistant to drought. It grows between 240-1,680 m above sea level. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds. Seeds are best treated with hot water.

Harvesting and Seed Production

The gum is difficult to tap.

NOTES

Also as Mimosaceae.

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