PLANT FACT SHEET

Acacia longifolia subsp. sophorae (Labill.) Court

GENUS *Acacia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Coastal wattle, Boobyalla

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Gum, Grub, Seeds, Flowers

The pods are roasted and the seeds picked out and eaten. (The pods are not eaten.)
The roasted seeds are ground into flour and sprinkled on salads and sandwiches.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen shrub or small tree. It grow to 5-8 m high and spreads 2 m across. The stem is erect and straight. In sandy coastal areas the trunk can be lying along the ground. It has many branches. The branches are long and arching. These branches take root and bind the soil. The younger branches are angular. The leaves (phyllodes) are blunt or with a very short tip and narrow. They are 5-15 cm long by 1-3.5 cm wide and dark green. They are leathery. They have several prominent veins along the leaf. The leaves are held rigidly out from the stems. The flower heads are yellow spikes. They are 2.5 cm long. There are one or two spikes together in the upper leaf axils. The pods are thick and narrow and bean like. They are 8-15 cm long by 0.4-0.8 cm wide. They are curved and twisted. They are leathery to woody. The pod is brown when ripe and slightly narrowed between the seeds.

HABITAT

It is a warm temperate and subtropical plant. It occurs naturally in cooler parts of eastern Australia. It prefers light sandy soil but can tolerate most kinds of soil conditions. It needs well drained soil. It requires an open sunny position. It is drought, wind and frost resistant. It is salt tolerant. It often grows along coastal sand dunes. It suits hardiness zones 9-11. Tasmania Herbarium. Arboretum Tasmania.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is grown from seed. The seed need treatment to break the hard seed coat. Normally this is by putting the seeds in very hot water and letting the water cool down overnight then planting the seeds immediately.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants flower August to September.

NOTES

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

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

W. T. Aiton, Hortus kew. ed. 2, 5:462. 1813

Barker, R., 1991, A Checklist of Native Plants Reportedly Edible. Australian Food Plant Study Group. Society for Growing Australian Plants. (As Acacia sophorae)

Bodkin, F., 1991, Encyclopedia Botanica. Cornstalk publishing, p 33

Bonney, N., 1997, Economic Native Trees and Shrubs for South Australia. Greening Australia (SA) inc. Campbelltown SA 5074 p 9 (As Acacia longifolia var. sophorae)

Bonney, N., 2012, Edible Wild Native Plants for Southern Australia. p 14

Breidahl H., 1997, Australian Southern Shores. Lothian. p 120

Cameron, M., (Ed.) 1981, A Guide to Flowers & Plants of Tasmania. Reed p 102

Cherikoff V. & Isaacs, J., The Bush Food Handbook. How to gather, grow, process and cook Australian Wild Foods. Ti Tree Press, Australia p 194

Clarke, P. A., 2013, The Aboriginal Ethnobotany of the Adelaide Region, South Australia. Transactions of the Royal Society of South Australia. (2013), 137(1): 97-126

Caton, J.M. & Hardwick, R. J., 2016, Field Guide to Useful Native Plants from Temperate Australia. Harbour Publishing House. p 52 (As Acacia sophorae)

Cribb, A.B. & J.W., 1976, Wild Food in Australia, Fontana. p 78 (As Acacia longifolia var. sophorae)

Curtis, W.M., 1956, The Students Flora of Tasmania Vol 1 p 124

Edible and Useful Native Plants (off internet) (As Acacia sophorae)

Elliot, W.R., & Jones, D.L., 1982, Encyclopedia of Australian Plants suitable for cultivation. Vol 2. Lothian. p 115

Etherington, K., & Imwold, D., (Eds), 2001, Botanica's Trees & Shrubs. The illustrated A-Z of over 8500 trees and shrubs. Random House, Australia. p 56

Facciola, S., 1998, Cornucopia 2: a Source Book of Edible Plants. Kampong Publications, p 151

Gott, B & Conran, J., 1991, Victorian Koorie Plants. PO Box 666 Hamilton, Victoria 3300, Australia. p 28

Greig, D., 1996, Flowering Natives for Home Gardens. Angus & Robertson. p 39

Grieg, D., 2002, A photographic guide to Wildflowers of South-eastern Australia. New Holland. p 62

Hardwick, R.J., 2000, Nature's Larder. A Field Guide to the Native Food Plants of the NSW South Coast. Homosapien Books. p 48

Harris, S., Buchanan, A., Connolly, A., 2001, One Hundred Islands: The Flora of the Outer Furneaux. Tas Govt. p 97

Haslam, S., 2004, Noosa's Native Plants. Noosa Integrated Catchment Assn. Inc. p 15

Hastings Advance Community College, 2017, Uses for Native Plants of the Mornington Peninsula. 86pp.

Hemphill, I, 2002, Spice Notes. Macmillan. p 413

Holliday, I., 1979, A Field Guide to Australian Native Shrubs. Rigby. p 12

Howells, C & Gulline, H., 2003, Coastal Plants of Tasmania. Plant Identikit. Australian Plant Society, Tasmania. p 25

ILDIS Legumes of the World http:www;ildis.org/Legume/Web

Lazarides, M. & Hince, B., 1993, Handbook of Economic Plants of Australia, CSIRO. p 6

Low, T., 1991, Wild Food Plants of Australia. Australian Nature FieldGuide, Angus & Robertson. p 41

Low, T., 1992, Bush Tucker. Australia's Wild Food Harvest. Angus & Robertson. p 86

Maiden, J. H., 1889, The Useful Native Plants of Australia (including Tasmania). The Technology Museum of NSW, Sydney. p 4

Paczkowska, G . & Chapman, A.R., 2000, The Western Australian Flora. A Descriptive Catalogue. Western Australian Herbarium. p 314 (As Acacia longifolia subsp. sophorae)

Plants for a Future database, The Field, Penpol, Lostwithiel, Cornwall, PL22 0NG, UK. http://www.scs.leeds.ac.uk/pfaf/

Robins, J., 1996, Wild Lime. Cooking from the Bush food garden. Allen & Unwin p 166

Smith, K & I., 1999, Grow your own bushfoods. New Holland. Australia. p 98 (As Acacia longifolia var. sophorae)

Tasmanian Herbarium Vascular Plants list p 39

Woolmore, E et al, 2002, King Island Flora: A Field Guide. p 57 (As Acacia longifolia subsp sophorae)

www.fsd.monash.edu.au/files/bethgottpamphley_po.pdf

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

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

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/408dc1de-1713-43d9-8c82-a78866dd022d