PLANT FACT SHEET

Acacia estrophiolata F. Muell.

GENUS *Acacia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Ironweed tree, Desert Ironwood

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Gum, Honeydew

The seeds are eaten.
The gum is eaten.
Lerp honeydew is also eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A small tree 5-20 m high which grows upright. It can be 3-10 m across. The bark is thick, dark and with furrows in it. The bark comes off in patches. The branches stick upwards. The trunk can be 25 to 35 cm across. The leaves (phyllodes) hang down. They are long and narrow. This gives the tree a willow like appearance. It is a graceful weeping tree and one of the larger ones of inland Australia. The leaves are 4-10 cm long by 0.3 cm across. They are smooth and flat with 3 veins. Leaves on young trees are wider, shorter and spiny. Adult leaves look quite different. The flower heads are round balls about 0.5 cm across. They are pale yellow. The flower stalks can be 1 cm long and 1-2 can occur in the angles of leaves. The pods are 3-10 cm long and 0.6 cm wide. They are flat and narrow. They are dark brown and constricted between the seeds. When the pods fall, instead of splitting open they often break between the seeds. The seed is rather hard.

HABITAT

It suits hot dry places. It does well in well drained light to medium soils. It prefers full sun. It occurs in central Australia. It is common near Alice Springs. It is very drought tolerant. It is easily killed by fire. It can grow in arid places. It suits hardiness zones 9-10.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is grown from seed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Young plants grow slowly, but grow rapidly when more established. Pods normally are produced in late autumn, and can remain on the tree for a long time. Because the pod clings to the seed, processing the seed is more difficult. But seed often remain after other acacia seed have gone. The red gum exuding from the tree is not edible but the white gum linked with boring insect damage is eaten.

NOTES

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

REFERENCES

Boomsma, C.D., 1972, Native Tree of South Australia. Woods & Forests Department South Australia, Bulletin No.19. p 37

Cherikoff V. & Isaacs, J., The Bush Food Handbook. How to gather, grow, process and cook Australian Wild Foods. Ti Tree Press, Australia p 42, 188

Cundall, P., (ed.), 2004, Gardening Australia: flora: the gardener's bible. ABC Books. p 75

Elliot, W.R., & Jones, D.L., 1982, Encyclopedia of Australian Plants suitable for cultivation. Vol 2. Lothian. p 47

Goddard, C. & Kalotas A. (Eds.), Punu, 2002, Yankunytjatjara plant use. Jukurrpa books. p 104

Hall, N. et al, 1972, The Use of Trees and Shrubs in the Dry Country of Australia, AGPS, Canberra. p 345

Holliday, I., 1989, A Field Guide to Australian Trees. Hamlyn. p 18

Lang, P. J., et al, 1986, Anangu Pitjantjatjara Lands Biological Survey. p 41, 44

Latz, P., 1996, Bushfires and Bushtucker. IAD. p 97

Lazarides, M. & Hince, B., 1993, Handbook of Economic Plants of Australia, CSIRO. p 3

Lister, P.R., P. Holford, T. Haigh, and D.A. Morrison, 1996, Acacia in Australia: Ethnobotany and potential food crop. p. 228-236. In: J. Janick (ed.), Progress in new crops. ASHS Press, Alexandria, VA.

Miller, J. B., James, K. W., Maggiore, P. M. A., 1993, Tables of Composition of Australian Aboriginal Foods, Aboriginal Studies Press. Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, Canberra.

O'Connell, J.F., et al, 1983, Traditional and Modern Plant Use Among the Alyawara of Central Australia. Economic Botany. Vol. 37 p 105

Paczkowska, G . & Chapman, A.R., 2000, The Western Australian Flora. A Descriptive Catalogue. Western Australian Herbarium. p 307

Pennock, A., et al, Australian Dry-zone Acacias for Human Food: Proceedings of a Workshop.

Salem, L., Thompson, E., and Elvin, H. L., Bush Tucker in Kidney Failure and Diabetes. AMGEN 2

S. Sci. Rec. 2:150. 1882

Smith, N. M., 1991, Ethnobotanical Field Notes from the Northern Territory, Australia, J. Adelaide Bot. Gard. 14(1): 1-65

Urban, A., 1990, Wildflowers of Inland Australia. Portside editions. p 78

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/4cd52bed-df6c-4777-b334-117e2c87ea2c