PLANT FACT SHEET

Mimosa pigra L.

GENUS *Mimosa* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Catclaw mimosa

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Spice, Flavouring

The plant is burnt as a spice.

DESCRIPTION

A small shrub. It can be 6 m tall. The stems are green but become woody later. There are broad prickles 7 mm long. The leaves are bright green and twice divided. The central stalk is 20-25 cm long and has prickles. There are 16 pairs of pinnae 5 cm long and each has pairs of leaflets 3-8 mm long. The leaves fold up when touched and at night. The flowers are red or pink and in tight heads 1 cm across. These contain about 100 flowers. Each head produces 10-20 seed pods. These break into segments when ripe. Each section contains one seed. The seeds are light brown or green.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in wet savannah and along rivers. It is also in palm groves and along the edges of small lakes. In Argentina it grows from sea level to 1,000 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants grow from seeds. Dry seeds on sandy soil can survive for over 20 years.

NOTES

Also as Mimosaceae.
It is invasive.

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