PLANT FACT SHEET

Acacia holosericea A.Cunn. ex G.Don

GENUS *Acacia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Strap wattle, Candelabra wattle

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Gum, Roots

The seeds are eaten. The seeds are ground into flour then cooked as flat bread.
The roots of young plants are roasted and eaten.
The clear gum can also be eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A straggling spreading shrub. It keeps its leaves throughout the year. It can grow up to 2-8 m tall. It can spread to 4 m across. The branches are angular and hairy. The bark is smooth and grey. The leaves (phyllodes) are grey green and silvery white. They are carried one after the other along the stem. In wetter locations the leaves are larger and darker green. They are 10-18 (-25) cm long and 1-2 (-9) cm wide. They have 2 or 3 clearly seen veins. These veins run along the leaf and join towards the base. The tip of the leaf has a thick sharp point. The flowers are yellow spikes 3-6 cm long. The flowers are slightly scented. The pods are produced in tight clusters. They are twisted and curled when mature. They are 3-5 cm long by 0.2-0.5 cm wide. The seeds are small and black. Where the seed is attached to the pod it is yellow or red.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in the Kimberleys in Western Australia and also in Queensland. It is often along the edges of streams. It is a tropical plant but adapts to sub tropical places. It is damaged by drought and frost. It often starts the re-growth when an area is cleared. It needs a sunny position. It grows in areas with annual rainfall between 230-2250 mm. It usually grows below 300 m above sea level. It grows in areas with annual average temperatures between 20°-29°C. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is grown from seed. The seed needs 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. Plants can be pruned to control the straggly growth. To avoid fungal growth on the leaves, spacing and placement should be arranged to allow ample air movement.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is a fast growing plant. Plants flower from June to August and produce pods from July to October. Plants may only last 5-6 years. Seeds are separated from the pods by winnowing in the wind.

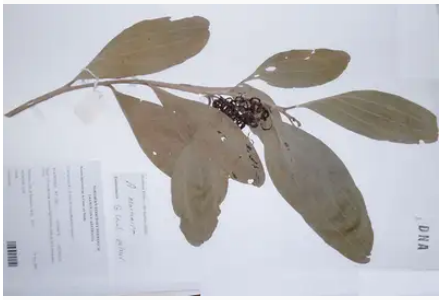
NOTES

There are about 1,350 Acacia species. Over 1,000 occur in Australia. Parts of this plant are used as medicine. It is a tetraploid plant sometimes confused with A. colei.
Also as Mimosaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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