PLANT FACT SHEET

Acacia victoriae Benth.

GENUS *Acacia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Bramble wattle, Gundabluey

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Gum, Seeds - coffee

When seeds are fully formed but still green the pods are lightly roasted and the seeds eaten. The mature seeds can be used as an emergency food after roasting then grinding to a paste with water and cooking as a damper. It can be used in breads, biscuits, pasta, ice cream and made into syrup.
Edible grubs are found in the roots.
The white gum is also eaten.
The roasted seeds are used as a coffee substitute called wattleccino.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen shrub. It grows 3-12 m high and spreads about 2-6 m across. The stem is erect and smooth. Often there are several stems from near the ground. It has a compact crown. The branches are almost round in cross section. The leaves (phyllodes) are narrow and pale green when young changing to greyish-green. They are 2-5 cm long by 1 cm wide and flat. They have one central vein. There can be prickles on the leaf stalks. These spines are 0.8 cm long. These thorns are not always present. The flower heads are pale yellow balls 0.8 cm across. They are on long branched flower stalks. The pods are flat and about 5 cm long. They are curved and grey-green. They are papery. The seeds are oval to round. There are about 4-6 seeds per pod. They are attached crossways along the pod. They are rather hard with a thick seed coat.

HABITAT

A native plant of Australia. It prefers medium to heavy soils. It can grown in limestone and salty areas. It suits an open sunny position but can grow in part shade. It is drought and frost resistant. It suits arid areas but will grow in cooler moist climates. It occurs as far north as 17° S latitude. It occurs in areas with a rainfall from 130 to 250 mm per year but also in areas with 2,000 mm rainfall. Young plants can survive fires. Roots can extend deeply (27 m) into the soil and this plant often indicates underground water. It can grow in arid places. It suits hardiness zones 8-11.

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. It forms root suckers easily.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants grow fairly quickly flowering in 2 years. It flowers in spring regardless of the timing of the rain. They produce a heavy and uniform seed crop. Plants last for about 10 years.

NOTES

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

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Alice, L. & O'Quinn, T., Australian Bush Superfoods. Explore Australia p 178

Anon., 2003, Native Plants for the Fitzroy basin. Society for Growing Australian Plants Inc. (Rockhampton Branch)

Bindon, P., 1996, Useful Bush Plants. Western Australian Museum. p 31

Bodkin, F., 1991, Encyclopedia Botanica. Cornstalk publishing, p 37

Boland, D. J. et al, , 2006, Forest Trees of Australia. CSIRO p 188

Bonney, N., 1997, Economic Native Trees and Shrubs for South Australia. Greening Australia (SA) inc. Campbelltown SA 5074 p 22

Bonney, N., 2012, Edible Wild Native Plants for Southern Australia. p 13

Boomsma, C.D., 1972, Native Tree of South Australia. Woods & Forests Department South Australia, Bulletin No.19. p 50

Cancilla, D., 2018, Ethnobotanical and Ethnozoological Values Desktop Assessment - Eliwana Project. p 9

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 80

Doran, J.C., & Turnbull, J.W. (Eds), 1997, Australian Trees and Shrubs: species for land rehabilitation and farm plantings in the tropics. ACIAR Monograph No 24. p 350

Eddie, C., 2007, Field Guide to Trees and Shrubs of Eastern Queensland Oil and Gas Fields. Santos p 240

Elliot, W.R., & Jones, D.L., 1982, Encyclopedia of Australian Plants suitable for cultivation. Vol 2. Lothian. p 129

Etherington, K., & Imwold, D., (Eds), 2001, Botanica's Trees & Shrubs. The illustrated A-Z of over 8500 trees and shrubs. Random House, Australia. p 57

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

Hall, N. et al, 1972, The Use of Trees and Shrubs in the Dry Country of Australia, AGPS, Canberra. p 353

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

Hiddins, L., 1999, Explore Wild Australia with the Bush Tucker Man. Penguin Books/ABC Books. p 130

Hunter, J.T., 2017, Is there a relationship between contemporary high Aboriginal plant resource locations and mapped vegetation communities? Cunninghamia 17:27-34. The Royal Botanic Garden Sydney. ISSN 2200 - 405X

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

King, M. & Horsfall, J., 2023, Kimberley Bush Food. Edible Plants of the KImberley Region of Western Australia. UWAP. p 15

Kintzios, S. E., 2006, Terrestrial Plant-Derived Anticancer Agents and Plant Species Used in Anticancer research. Critical Reviews in Plant Sciences. 25: pp 79-113

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

Latz, P., 1996, Bushfires and Bushtucker. IAD. p 121

Lazarides, M. & Hince, B., 1993, Handbook of Economic Plants of Australia, CSIRO. p 7

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.

Lord, E.E., & Willis, J.H., 1999, Shrubs and Trees for Australian gardens. Lothian. p 43

Low, T., 1991, Wild Food Plants of Australia. Australian Nature FieldGuide, Angus & Robertson. p 179

Maslin, B. R., et al, 1998, Edible Wattle Seeds of Southern Australia. CSIRO p 24

Miers, G., 2004, Cultivation and sustainable wild harvest of Bushfoods by Aboriginal Communities in Central Australia. RIRDC report W03/124 p 19

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.

Milson. J., 2000, Trees and Shrubs of north-west Queensland. DPI p 156

T. L. Mitchell, J. exped. trop. Australia 333. 1848

O'Connell, J.F., et al, 1983, Traditional and Modern Plant Use Among the Alyawara of Central Australia. Economic Botany. Vol. 37 p 106

Paczkowska, G . & Chapman, A.R., 2000, The Western Australian Flora. A Descriptive Catalogue. Western Australian Herbarium. p 328

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

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

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (1999). Survey of Economic Plants for Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (SEPASAL) database. Published on the Internet; http://www.rbgkew.org.uk/ceb/sepasal/internet [Accessed 27th April 2011]

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

Self, M., 199, Phoenix Seeds catalogue. p 14

Smith, K & I., 1999, Grow your own bushfoods. New Holland. Australia. p 100

Townsend, K., 1994, Across the Top. Gardening with Australian Plants in the tropics. Society for Growing Australian Plants, Townsville Branch Inc. p 66

Urban, A., 1990, Wildflowers of Inland Australia. Portside editions. p 74

Wheeler, J.R.(ed.), 1992, Flora of the Kimberley Region. CALM, Western Australian Herbarium, p 331

Williams, K.A.W., 1999, Native Plants of Queensland Volume 4. Keith A.W. Williams North Ipswich, Australia. p 38

Full reference list (1 more) at https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/f0c00aba-d26c-40e3-abd1-32451f673ba3

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/f0c00aba-d26c-40e3-abd1-32451f673ba3