



## PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Acanthosyris spinescens* (Mart. & Eichler) Griseb.

**GENUS** *Acanthosyris*      **FAMILY** Santalaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Sombra-de-touro

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Fruit

The fruit are eaten raw.

## DESCRIPTION

A thorny tree. It grows 3-6 m high. The thorns are in the axils of the leaves and are 8-15 mm long. It loses its leaves during the year. The leaves are alternate and are papery. They are 3-6 cm long. The flowers occur singly or in pairs. They are yellow and in the axils of leaves. The fruit are round and fleshy. They have a thin skin and a juicy pulp.

## HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows naturally in grasslands in Brazil.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. For collecting seeds the ripe fruit are put into plastic bags to partly decompose then the seeds are washed out under running water. Seeds need to be planted fresh. Seedlings emerge in 60-80 days.

### Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants grow slowly.

## NOTES

There are 3 *Acanthosyris* species. They occur in temperate South America.

## REFERENCES

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