

Medicinal Plant Images

Zingiber officinale and *Acacia baileyana*

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Figure 1: *Zingiber officinale* (ginger): Ginger is a medicinal and food plant that has been widely used in a variety of ethnomedicinal systems, including Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and Ayurveda, for thousands of years. Ginger is reputed to be effective at treating a wide variety of diseases and disorders including but not limited to muscular aches and pains, cramps, sore throats, fever, bacterial and viral diseases, parasitic worms, hypertension, indigestion, constipation, vomiting and diarrhoea as well as arthritis and rheumatism.^[1] This photograph was taken in San Ignacio, Belize by Dr Ian Cock in January 2010.



Figure 2: *Acacia baileyana* (Cootamundra Wattle): The genus *Acacia* (family Fabaceae) is a large genus of more than 1200 trees and shrubs which are widely distributed throughout the world, with more than 700 species indigenous to Australia. The Australian species, including *Acacia baileyana* (pictured) had multiple medicinal uses by indigenous Australians, including being used to treat diarrhoea and hyperglycemia^[2] and as a general antiseptic agent.^[3] Many Australian *Acacia* species have been reported to have antimicrobial, molluscicidal, antihypertensive and platelet aggregatory activities.^[2] This photograph was taken in Hobart, Australia by Dr Ian Cock in July 2011.

1. Ali BH, Blunden G, Tanira MO, Nemmar A, Some phytochemical, pharmacological and toxicological properties of ginger (*Zingiber officinale* Roscoe): A review of recent research. *Food Chem Toxicol* 2008; 46: 409-420.
2. Cock IE, Medicinal and aromatic plants – Australia. In *Ethnopharmacology, Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems (EOLSS)*, Developed under the auspices of UNESCO, EOLSS Publishers, Oxford, UK [<http://www.eolss.net>].
3. Cock IE, Antibacterial activity of selected Australian native plant extracts. *Internet J Microbiol* 2008; 4, 2.