

Medicinal Plant Images

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Figure 1: *Acacia concurrens*: 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 concurrens* (pictured) had multiple medicinal uses by indigenous Australians, including being used to treat diarrhoea and hyperglycemia¹ and as a general antiseptic agent.^{2,3} Many Australian *Acacia* species have been reported to have antimicrobial, molluscicidal, antihypertensive and platelet aggregatory activities.¹ This photograph was taken in South East Queensland, Australia by Dr Ian Cock in 2014.

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Figure 2: *Kigelia Africana* (commonly known as sausage tree). Multiple parts of the *K. africana* tree have been used in traditional healing systems in the treatment of a variety of medical conditions and complaints. The powdered mature fruit is used to treat wounds, abscesses, and ulcers, whilst the green fruit is used to treat syphilis and rheumatism.⁴⁻⁶ An infusion made from the ground bark and fruit is used to treat stomach problems in children.⁴⁻⁶ Roots and bark are used to treat pneumonia.⁴ In West Africa, leaves and twigs are used to treat wounds, dysentery, stomach and kidney disorders, snakebite, and rheumatism.⁷ The fruit is used to treat constipation, gynaecological disorders, haemorrhoids, lumbago and dysentery.⁷ Slices of mature baked fruits are used to ferment and flavour traditional African beer.⁸ Extracts prepared from

the bark have cytotoxic activities and have shown promising results in treating melanoma and renal carcinoma.⁹ Bark and root solvent extracts have been reported to inhibit the growth of *Escherichia coli*, *Enterobacter aerogens*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Salmonella typhi*, *Proteus vulgaris*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Bacillus cereus*.¹⁰ In a similar study, solvent extracts prepared from stem and root bark have also been shown to inhibit growth of *E. coli*, *P. aeruginosa*, *S. aureus* and *Candida albicans*.^{11,12} Other studies have also reported antibacterial activity for *K. Africana* leaf extracts.^{13,14} Of particular interest, polar *K. africana* leaf extracts have been shown to inhibit the growth of the bacterial trigger of rheumatoid arthritis.¹³ Extracts prepared from the *K. africana* fruit inhibited the growth of a panel of Gram positive and

Gram negative bacteria.^{14,15} Furthermore, extracts from various parts of the *K. africana* plant have been shown to have high antioxidant contents,¹⁶ further indicating the therapeutic potential of this species. This photograph was taken Windhoek Botanical Gardens, Namibia in 2012 by Dr Ian Cock.

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