

## Medicinal Plant Images

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**Figure 1:** 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 had multiple medicinal uses by indigenous Australians, including being used to treat diarrhoea and hyperglycemia<sup>1</sup> and as a general antiseptic agent.<sup>2,3</sup> Many Australian *Acacia* species have been reported to have antimicrobial, molluscicidal, antihypertensive and platelet aggregatory activities.<sup>1</sup> This photograph was taken at Griffith University, Australia in 2015 by Dr Ian Cock.



**Figure 2:** *Sutherlandia frutescens* (L.) R.Br. (commonly known as cancer bush, balloon pea) is a small hardy bush to 2 metres. It grows widely in dry regions of southern Africa. It has hairy leaves which give the plant a slight silver colour and produces large red flowers which develop into papery 'bladder-like' pods. *S. frutescens* is a component of multiple southern African traditional medicine systems. The bitter, aromatic leaves are used to prepare decoctions, infusions and tinctures which are taken internally to treat fever, chicken pox, flu, rheumatism and diarrhea.<sup>4,5</sup> Alternatively, the preparations can be applied topically to wounds and for eye ailments. Traditional uses also include the treatment of stress, trauma and depression.<sup>5</sup> Studies have also reported that *S. frutescens* preparations inhibit the proliferation of human tumour cells<sup>6</sup> and have antidiabetic effects.<sup>7</sup> Thus *S. frutescens* preparations also have potential in the treatment of some cancer and diabetes.

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