

NOMENCLATURE: IDENTIFICATION:

Accepted Name: Acacia mearnsii De Wild.

Approved by: GMC, 4/15/76

References: See Bibliography\*

Synonyms: A. decurrens (Wendl.) Willd. var. mollis Lindl.

Identification:

FRACTIONATOR:

DESCRIPTION: Unarmed tree up to 15 m. high with a conical or rounded crown; bark grey-brown to blackish, smooth or rough on very old trunks; young branchlets angular; all parts (except flowers) ± densely pubescent or puberulous, indumentum on young parts often golden. Leaves bipinnate: petiole 1-2.5 cm. long, often with a gland above; rhachis usually 4-12 cm. long, with numerous raised glands all along its upper surface both at and between the junctions of the pinnae pairs; pinnae 8-21 pairs; leaflets 15-70 pairs, 1.5-4 X 0.5-0.75 mm. linear-oblong, appressed-pubescent or glabrous beneath, margins usually with cilia. Inflorescences capitate, in terminal panicles. Flowers pale yellow, fragrant, on peduncles 2-6 mm. long. Calyx sparingly pubescent especially towards the apices of the lobes. Corolla glabrous or almost so. Pods (1.6) 3-10 X 0.5-0.8 cm. jointed, almost moniliform, ± grey-puberulous, dehiscing longitudinally along one margin only, straight or slightly curved. Seeds black, ± 5 X 3.5 mm. elliptic, compressed, smooth; caruncle conspicuous; areole 3.5 X 2 mm.

Distinguishing characters might be the golden hairs on young shoots, numerous pinnules that are set close together, and shortly-lobed calyx with linear-oblongate, hairy ciliate sepals.

ECOLOGY: Margins of dry sclerophyll forest below 2,000 feet in Australia. Becoming naturalized, but of local occurrences, in Eastern and Southern Africa.

COMMENTS: Native of Australia. Occasional plants were seen by Spjut at edges of bushland and Cynometra forest near Jilore Forest Station, Kenya.

USES: Well known by the name of Black Wattle and economically important for its tannin content. Wood is used for firewood and building.

## Acacia

ACTIVITY DATA IN SPECIES OF Acacia:

<u>A. albida</u>	WA	DN		Kupchan
<u>A. angustissima</u>	SA	DK	Tannin	Brewer
<u>A. catechu</u>	LL	C		
<u>A. cunninghamii</u>	WA	DM		Price
<u>A. decurrens</u>	KB	C		Kupchan
<u>A. gerrardii</u>	WA	DM		Jordaan
<u>A. glomerosa</u>	PS	C		Hudson
<u>A. ixiophylla</u>	LL	DK	Tannin	Clark-Lewis
<u>A. leptocarpa</u>	WA	DM		Price
<u>A. mearnsii</u>	WA	C		
<u>A. melanoxylon</u>	SA, KB	C		Price
<u>A. pilispina</u>	WA	C	Tannin	Kupchan
<u>A. pulchella</u>	WA	C		Jeffries
<u>A. rhodoxylon</u>	LL	DM		Price
<u>A. suberiana</u> var. <u>villosa</u>	PS	C		Quimby
<u>A. simsii</u>	SA	DM		Price
<u>A. spectabilis</u>	WA	C		Price

REFERENCES:

- Bentham, G., 1863-1878. Flora Australensis. Reprint. A. Asher & Co., Amsterdam & L. Reeve & Co., London; Vol. II: 414-415.
- \*Brennan, J.P.M., 1970. Flora Zambesiaca: Leguminosae. Crown Agents for Oversea Govts. & Administrations; Vol. 3(1): 111-112.
- \*\_\_\_\_\_, 1959. Flora of Tropical East Africa: Leguminosae subfamily Mimosoideae. Crown Agents for Oversea Govts. & Administrations; pp. 95-96.
- \*Burbidge, N.T. & M. Gray, 1970. Flora of the A.C.T. Australian National Univ. Press, Canberra; pp. 204, 206.
- \*Ross, J.H., 1975. The naturalized and cultivated exotic Acacia species in South Africa. Bothalia 11(4): 463-470 (cf. p. 465).
- \*Nomenclatural References.

PREPARED BY:           R. W. Spjut           DATE:           May 18, 1977

*Acacia mearnsii* De Wild.

Fabaceae

Unarmed tree up to 15 m. high with a conical or rounded crown.

Margins of dry sclerophyll forest below 2,000 feet in Australia. Introduced and becoming naturalized in eastern southern Africa.

Bark valued for its high tannin content. Plantations of this species in South Africa have covered more than 300,000 acres.

M KB (fr); Tanzania

