



Acacia Karroo RSA:172

English: Sweet Thorn
Afrikaans: Soetdoring
Setswana: mooka
IsiZulu: umunga
Sepedi: mookana

The Acacia Karroo is reputedly the most common tree in South Africa, it is also widely distributed.

Status: Protected in the Northern Cape and Free State.

Identification:

Height: The Karroo can grow up to 20 m in height, but more commonly grows to around 12 m. They are deciduous and have spreading crown.

Leaves: leaves are 'bipinnately' compound, i.e. small leaflets in two rows along multiple leaf stalks.

Flowers: are dark yellow, scented balls that grow along the fresh growth and are present from spring through summer.

Fruit: are carried in flat sickle shaped pods (not shown).

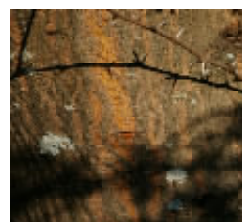
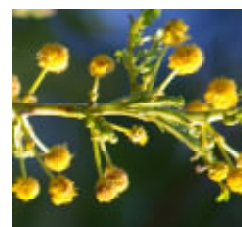
Bark: is brownish grey in colour with narrow vertical grooves. The bark may turn black on older trees.

Human use:

Garden: Ornamental, shade tree.

Traditional: The wood is good fuel and has been used for fence poles and furniture. The outer bark is used in tanning for red colouration. Rope can be made from the inner bark.

Medicinal: various parts are used as remedies for dysentery, oral thrush and colic.



Animal use:

Cattle and game eat the leaves, flowers and seed pods. The gum [known as "Cape gum"] is eaten by the Bushbaby. The flowers attract insects which in turn attract birds.



Location:

The specimen pictured is located north east of the upgraded ford in the Moreleta reserve, see illustration above.

Bibliography

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