

# 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, molluskicidal, antihypertensive and platelet aggregator activities.<sup>1</sup> This photograph was taken at Griffith University, Australia by Dr Ian Cock.



**Figure 2:** *Carpobrotus edulis* (commonly known as sour figure) is a succulent South African plant that has uses as both a food and as a traditional medicine. Ripe fruit are used in jams and curry dishes in the Cape region of South Africa. Medicinally, the juice of the succulent leaves was gargled to treat oral infections.<sup>4</sup> The juice is also used to treat skin disorders and burns. Application is reported to be effective against toothache, earache and vaginal thrush. When swallowed, it is used to alleviate gastrointestinal disorders, diarrhoea and dysentery, tuberculosis and as a diuretic.<sup>4</sup> Recent studies have also shown *C. edulis* leaf extracts to inhibit the growth of bacteria. of particular interest was the potent growth inhibitory activity of the extracts against the bacterial trigger of rheumatoid arthritis<sup>5</sup> and ankylosing spondylitis.<sup>6</sup> This photograph was taken in Johannesburg, South Africa by Dr Ian Cock.

## REFERENCE

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