

Medicinal Plant Images

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Figure 1: *Terminalia ferdinandiana* Exell. (Family Combretaceae), commonly known as Kakadu plum, gubinge, billy goat plum and salty plum, is an endemic Australian tree which occurs in tropical grassland regions of northern Australia. The fruit has traditional uses for indigenous Australians as nutritious food and as a medicinal plant.^{1,2} Recent studies have reported Kakadu plum to be extremely high in antioxidants and to be the richest naturally occurring source of vitamin C.^{3,4} As high antioxidant levels have previously been demonstrated to act as preventative effects against the development of degenerative chronic diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular diseases, neural degeneration, diabetes and obesity, it has been postulated that Kakadu plum fruit may also be an effective preventative against these diseases.² Recent studies have shown Kakadu plum fruit extracts to be effective at inhibiting the growth of a panel of bacterial pathogens, including *P. mirabilis*, *K. pneumoniae*, *A. baylyi*, *P. aeruginosa*,^{5,7} *Clostridium perfringens*,⁸ and *Yersinia enterocolitica*,⁹ as well as food spoilage¹⁰ and body odour forming bacteria.¹¹ Notably, recent studies have demonstrated that *T. ferdinandiana* extracts are also effective against MRSA and some ESBL bacterial strains.¹² Fruit and leaf extracts of this species are also effective against dermal fungal pathogens.¹³ Additionally, extracts prepared from *T. ferdinandiana* fruit also inhibit *Giardia duodenalis* growth and may therefore be useful in the treatment of giardiasis.^{14,15} *Terminalia ferdinandiana* extracts also inhibit the proliferation of multiple cancer cell lines via the induction of apoptosis.³



Figure 2: Australian *Acacia* spp. 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^{1,16} and as a general antiseptic agent.¹⁷⁻²¹ Many Australian *Acacia* species have been reported to have antimicrobial, molluskicidal, antihypertensive and platelet aggregatory activities.¹⁶ This photograph was taken in Brisbane, Australia in 2024 by Dr Ian Cock.

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