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Medicinal Plant Images

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Figure 1: *Petalostigma triloculorae* (commonly known as quinine bush) unripe fruit and leaves. Petalostigma is an Australian Euphorbiaceae genus which consists of 7 species. They grow to between 2 and 10 metres in height and have bright orange fruit (when ripe). Petalostigma species were used extensively by indigenous Australians to treat a myriad of bacterial, fungal and viral diseases.[1] *P. pubescens* bark and fruit decoctions were used extensively by Australian Aborigines as an antiseptic and to treat sore eyes. Fruit were also held in the mouth to relieve toothache.[1] Despite its common name, there is no scientific evidence to support the presence of quinine in the fruit or leaves (the common name is presumably due to the extremely sharp bitter flavour of the fruit). Recent studies have confirmed the antibacterial, antifungal and antiviral activity of extracts of the leaves and fruit of this plant.[2,3] This photograph was taken at Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia in 2011 by Dr. Ian Cock.

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 use to treat diarrhoea and hyperglycemia4 and as a general antiseptic agent.[5-7] Many *Acacia* spp. have also been reported to have amtimicrobial, molluskicidal, antihypertensive and platelet aggregatory activities.[4] Recent studies have reported that Australian[8,9] and South African Acacia spp.[10,11] inhibit some bacterial triggers of the autoimmune inflammatory diseases rheumatoid arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis. Furthermore, several *Acacia* spp. inhibit the growth of food spoilage bacteria and therefore are useful as natural preservatives.[7,12] This photograph was taken in Toohey Forrest, Queensland, Australia by Dr. Ian Cock in 2016.

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