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Medicinal Plant Images

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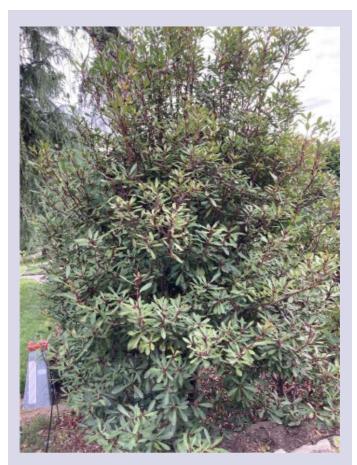


Figure 1: *Tasmannia lanceolata* (Poir) A.C.Sm. (family Winteraceae), commonly known as mountain pepper berry or Tasmanian pepper, is shrub which is endemic to the woodlands and cool temperate rainforests of Tasmania and the south-eastern region of the Australian mainland.

The leaves, berries and bark of this plant have traditional uses as a food flavouring, and as a medicinal plant. Australian Aborigines used *T. lanceolata* as a therapeutic agent to treat stomach disorders and as an emetic, as well as general usage as a tonic.¹ That study reported that *T. lanceolata* was used by Australian Aborigines for the treatment and cure of skin disorders, venereal diseases, colic, stomach ache and as a quinine substitute. Several of these traditional uses have been validated in recent publications. The antibacterial properties of *T. lanceolata* have been particularly well reported against a wide variety of bacterial species.²⁻⁶



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.

Similarly, the related species *Tasmannia stipatata⁷* and *Pseudowintwera colorata* (Raoul) Dandy⁸ have also been reported to inhibit the growth of multiple bacteria. *T. lanceolata* extracts have also been reported to inhibit the growth of the gastrointestinal protozoal parasite *Giadria duodenalis*.^{6,9} Similar extracts also inhibit the proliferation of several human cancer cell lines.^{6,10}

The Australian species had multiple medicinal uses by indigenous Australians, including being used to treat diarrhoea and hyperglycemia¹¹ and as a general antiseptic agent^{3,12-14} Many Australian *Acacia* species have

been reported to haveamtimicrobial, molluskicidal, antihypertensive and platelet aggregatory activities.¹¹ This photograph was taken at Griffith University, Australia in 2015 by Dr Ian Cock.

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