

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 a shrub which is endemic to the woodlands and cool temperate rainforests of Tasmania and the south-eastern region of the Australian mainland.



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 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

Similarly, the related species *Tasmannia stipitata*⁷ and *Pseudowintera 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 *Giardia 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 have antimicrobial, molluscicidal, antihypertensive and platelet aggregatory activities.¹¹ This photograph was taken at Griffith University, Australia in 2015 by Dr Ian Cock.

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