

Medicinal Plant Images

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Figure 1: *Eremophila racemosa* (Endl.) F.Muell. (family Scrophulariaceae) is an endemic Australian plant. Several *Eremophila* spp. were used in traditional First Australian medicine to treat a wide variety of ailments.^{1,2} Additionally, many other members of the genus *Eremophila* also have traditional medicinal uses. The genus consists of more than 200 species that grow in semi-arid and arid regions of Australia. Multiple *Eremophila* spp. are used as traditional medicines by the First Australians in the areas in which they grow to treat diverse conditions including uses as antibacterial, antifungal, antiviral, antioxidant, anti-diabetic, and anti-inflammatory therapies, as well as for their cardio-protective properties. The antibacterial properties of *Eremophila* spp. have been relatively well studied and the several bioactive terpenoids have been identified. This photograph was taken in January 2015, by Ian Cock.



Figure 2: *Kigelia africana* (commonly known as sausage tree). Multiple parts of the *K. africana* tree have been used in traditional healing systems in the treatment of a variety of medical conditions and complaints. The powdered mature fruit is used to treat wounds, abscesses, and ulcers, whilst the green fruit is used to treat syphilis and rheumatism.^{3,5} An infusion made from the ground bark and fruit is used to treat stomach problems in children.³⁻⁵ Roots and bark are used to treat pneumonia.³

In West Africa, leaves and twigs are used to treat wounds, dysentery, stomach and kidney disorders, snakebite, and rheumatism.⁶ The fruit is used to treat constipation, gynaecological disorders, haemorrhoids, lumbago and dysentery.⁶ Slices of mature baked fruits are used to ferment and flavour traditional African beer.⁷ Extracts prepared from the bark have cytotoxic activities and have shown promising results in treating melanoma and renal carcinoma.⁸ Bark and root solvent extracts have been reported to inhibit the growth of *Escherichia coli*, *Enterobacter aerogenes*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Salmonella typhi*, *Proteus vulgaris*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Bacillus cereus*.⁹ In a similar study, solvent extracts prepared from stem and root bark have also been shown to inhibit growth of *E. coli*, *P. aeruginosa*, *S. aureus* and *Candida albicans*.^{10,11} Other studies have also reported antibacterial activity for *K. africana* leaf extracts.^{12,13} Of particular interest, polar *K. africana* leaf extracts have been shown to inhibit the growth of the bacterial trigger of rheumatoid arthritis.¹² Extracts prepared from the *K. africana* fruit inhibited the growth of a panel of Gram positive and Gram negative bacteria.^{13,14} Furthermore, extracts from various parts of the *K. africana* plant have been shown to have high antioxidant contents,¹⁵ further indicating the therapeutic potential of this species. This photograph was taken Windhoek Botanical Gardens, Namibia in 2012 by Dr. Ian Cock.



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