

# *Acacia auriculiformis*

**Common name:** Ear Leaf Acacia

**Family:** Fabaceae

**Habit:** Tree

**Location:** Botanical Garden

**Distribution:** It is native to Australia, Philippines, Indonesia, and Papua New Guinea.

## **Description:**

*Acacia auriculiformis* is an evergreen tree that grows between to 15–30 meters tall, with a trunk as high as 12 meters and 50 cm in diameter. The trunk is crooked and the bark vertically fissured. Roots are shallow and spreading. It has dense foliage with an open, spreading crown. Leaves 10–16 cm long and 1.5–2.5 cm wide with 3–8 parallel nerves, thick, leathery and curved. Flowers are 8 cm long and in pairs, creamy yellow and sweet scented. Pods are about 6.5 by 1.5cm, flat, cartilaginous, glaucous, transversely veined with undulate margins. They are initially straight but on maturity become twisted with irregular spirals. Seeds are transversely held in the pod, broadly ovate to elliptical, about 4–6 by 3–4 mm.

## **Uses:**

This plant is raised as an ornamental plant, as a shade tree and it is also raised on plantations for fuelwood throughout southeast Asia, Oceania and in Sudan. Its wood is good for making paper, furniture and tools. It contains tannin useful in animal hide tanning. In India, its wood and charcoal are widely used for fuel. Gum from the tree is sold commercially, but it is said not to be as useful as gum Arabic. In Thailand the small fresh leaves are eaten, often with chili sauce or papaya salad. The tree is used to make an analgesic by indigenous Australians. Extracts of heartwood inhibit fungi that attack wood. Aqueous extracts show developmental inhibitory effects on *Bactrocera cucurbitae* (the melon fly).

