

still others food products. The African species, *Acacia gummifera*, *Acacia seyal*, *Acacia ehrenbergiana*, *Acacia tortilis*, and *Acacia arabica*, yield gum arabic, as do the Asiatic species, *Acacia arabica* and the related *Albizzia lebbek*. A somewhat similar gum is produced by *Acacia decurrens* and *Acacia dealbata* of Australia and *Acacia horrida* of South Africa. Gum senegal is the product of *Acacia verec*, sometimes called *Acacia senegal*. The drug "catechu" is prepared from *Acacia catechu*. The astringent bark of a number of species is extensively used in tanning, especially the bark of those known in Australia as wattles. For this purpose *Acacia decurrens*, the black wattle, is one of the best, the air-dried bark of this plant containing about four times as much tanning extract as good oak bark. The cooba (*Acacia saligna*) is another of the important wattle trees. The most valuable timber tree of the genus is probably the blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*) of Australia. The tree attains a large size, and the wood is easily worked and takes a high polish. The koa (*Acacia koa*) is one of the important timber trees of Hawaii and is highly prized for cabinet work. A number of the acacias have been introduced into cultivation in Europe and America, where they thrive. The California experiment station recommends planting several species for tanning extract and for timber. A number of species are grown in mild climates and in greenhouses as ornamentals, partly because of the fragrance of their flowers. The common American Robinia or locust (*Robinia pseudacacia*) and the *Robinia hispida* are known as acacia and rose acacia in Europe and elsewhere. Fossil forms of acacia are abundant in the Tertiary beds of Aix in France, and an allied genus, *Acaciaphyllum*, has been described from the cretaceous beds of North America. Consult: F. von Mueller, *Iconography of Australian Acacias* (Melbourne); L. H. Bailey, *Cyclopædia of American Horticulture*, (New York, 1900-01); G. Nicholson, *Illustrated Dictionary of Gardening* (London, 1884-89).

ACACIA, ā-kā'shā (literally, thorny, Gk. *akts*, *akis*, point, splinter, thorn). A genus of plants of the family Leguminosæ, by some referred to the family Mimosaceæ, differing from *Mimosa* in the greater number of stamens (10 to 200) and the absence of transverse partitions in the pods. There are about 450 species of acacia, 300 of which are indigenous to Australia and Polynesia. The others are found in all tropical and sub-tropical countries except Europe. The flowers are small and are arranged in globular or elongated clusters. The leaves are usually bipinnately compound; but in many of the Australian species the leaflets are greatly reduced and the leaf blades correspondingly enlarged and flattened into what are termed phyllodia. Most of the species having phyllodia inhabit hot, arid regions, and this modification prevents too rapid evaporation of moisture from the leaves. Many of the species are of great economic importance; some yield gums, others valuable timber, and

ACACIA, ETC.



1. ALOE (*Aloe vera*).
2. ACONITE (*Aconitum napellus*).

3. ACACIA (*Acacia arabica*; var. *nilotica*).
4. ARNICA (*Arnica montana*).