

## *Acacia arabica*

---

### Scientific Classification

<i>Kingdom:</i>	<i>Plantae</i>
<i>Order:</i>	<i>Fabales</i>
<i>Family:</i>	<i>Fabaceae</i>
<i>Genus:</i>	<i>Acacia</i>
<i>Species:</i>	<i>arabica</i>
<i>Vernacular name:</i>	<i>Babul</i>



[www.vriksha.org.in](http://www.vriksha.org.in)

---

### Plant profile

Acacia is a genus of shrubs and trees of Gondwanian origin belonging to the family Leguminosae and the sub-family Mimosoideae, first described from African examples by Linnaeus in 1773. There are roughly 1300 species worldwide: about 950 of them being native to Australia, while the balance is spread around the Southern Hemisphere, including Africa, India and southern Asia, and the Americas. Australian species are often called wattles. The plants often bear spines, especially those growing in arid districts in Australia or tropical and South Africa. The small flowers are arranged in rounded or elongated clusters. It is a moderate-sized, almost evergreen tree with a short trunk, and a spreading crown. The bark is dark brown to almost black, longitudinally fissured or deeply cracked. The leaves are bipinnate with main rachis hairy in addition, with glands. The leaflets are 10 to 25 pairs. Stipular spines are variable. Leaflets are sessile and glabrous. The flowers are golden-yellow, fragrant, crowded in long-stalked globose heads, forming auxiliary clusters of 2-5 heads, generally blossom in July to January. Pods are white, stalked, flat, compressed 7.5-15.0 cm in length and contracted between the circular seeds. Three subspecies are recognized in India.

---

### Uses

The bark of *Acacia arabica*, under the name of babul or babool, is used in Sindh for tanning. The bark is useful as toothpaste ingredient. Bark, gum, and seeds are used as Ayurvedic herbal medicine.