Acacia nilotica Linn.

Systematic Position

Kingdom: Plantae Phylum: Magnoliophyta Class: Magnoliopsida Order: Fabales Family: Fabaceae Genus: *Acacia* Species: *A. nilotica*

Popular names: Acacia nilotica Linn.

Common Name: Babul, kikar

Nature: Tree

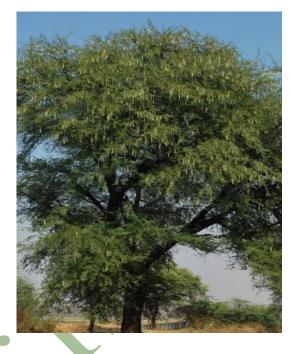
Flowering time: September to December

Fruiting time: December to June

Plant distribution: It is native from Egypt south to Mozambique and Natal through to Pakistan, India and Burma. It has become widely naturalized outside its native range including Zanzibar, and Australia.

Gardening notes:

- 1. Light: It grows best in full sunlight.
- 2. Moisture: It has more water requirement during seed germination and establishment.
- 3. **Propagation:** By seeds.



Economic importance:

- **1.** Its bark yields tannin.
- 2. Leather made from its bark is firm and durable.
- **3.** Its gum is used for calico printing and dyeing, and sizing material for silk and cotton, and in paper manufacture; used also as a substitute of gum arabic.
- 4. Roasted seeds are eaten; yield a fatty oil.
- 5. Pods when green, used as fodder.
- 6. Decoction of bark used as a gargle, and that of pods in urino-genital diseases.

Plant description: A medium sized spiny tree

- **1. Root-** Tap root, branched; Stem- Aerial, erect, solid, woody, cylindrical, brownish with small eruptions, branched; bark glaucous;
- 2. Leaf- Compound, bipinnate, paripinnate, green, stipulate, stipules modified into spines, petiolate, petiole green, 2-3 cm long, leaflets 6-9 pairs, oval, entire, obtuse, green, opposite, unicostate reticulate venation
- 3. Inflorescence- Cymose heads;
- 4. Flower- Complete, bracteate, actinomorphic, hermaphrodite, hypogynous, pedicellate, pedicel green, 2-4 cm long; Sepals- 5, minute, gamosepalous, campanulate, valvate aestivation, inferior; Stamens- indefinite, polyandrous, filaments 2-2.5 cm long, yellow with slight creamish base, introrse, anthers minute, yellow ; Carpel- 1, monocarpellary, ovary superior, green, small, unilocular, marginal placentation, style minute, green, stigma simple, green, minute;
- 5. Fruit- A lomentaceous pod, 5-7 cm long, green when immature and brown when mature, 7-11 seeds; Seed- Brown, small, rounded.

Close up view of plant parts



