

Acacia auriculiformis (Earleaf Acacia)



Kingdom:	Plantae
Clade:	Angiosperms
Order:	Fabales
Family:	Fabaceae
Subfamily:	Caesalpinioideae
Clade:	Mimosoid clade
Genus:	Acacia
Species:	A. auriculiformis

- Common Names: Earleaf acacia, earpod wattle, auri (Philippines), karuvel (Tamil Nadu and Karnataka), aakashmani (West Bengal)
- Family: Fabaceae
- Native Regions: Australia, Philippines, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea
- Growth:
- Height: 15–30 meters (49–98 feet)
- Trunk: Up to 12 meters (39 feet) high, 50 cm (1 ft 8 in) in diameter
- Trunk Characteristics: Crooked with vertically fissured bark
- Roots: Shallow and spreading

Leaves: 10–16 cm (4–6 in) long, 1.5–2.5 cm (0.6–1.0 in) wide, thick, leathery, curved with 3–8 parallel nerves

Crown: Dense foliage with an open, spreading crown

Flowers:

Appearance: Creamy yellow, sweet-scented, 8 cm (3.1 in) long, arranged in pairs

Pods:

Size: About 6.5 cm × 1.5 cm (2.6 in × 0.6 in)

Characteristics: Flat, cartilaginous, glaucous with undulate margins, initially straight but twist into irregular spirals when mature

Seeds:

Number: Approximately 47,000 seeds per kilogram (21,000/lb)

- Size: Broadly ovate to elliptical, about 4–6 mm x 3–4 mm (0.16–0.24 in x 0.12–0.16 in) Seed Dispersal: Birds such as jungle crow, grey-headed myna, and red-whiskered bulbul feed on seeds with the aril and help in dispersal
- Name Origin:
- Generic Name: Derived from Greek word "akis" meaning point or barb
- Specific Epithet: From Latin "auricula" (external ear of animals) and "forma" (shape), referring to the shape of the pod
- Uses:
- Ornamental Plant: Used as a shade tree
- Plantations: Raised for fuelwood in Southeast Asia, Oceania, and Sudan
- Wood: Used for making paper, furniture, tools, and charcoal
- Tannin: Used in animal hide tanning
- Gum: Sold commercially, but less useful than gum arabic
- Edible Uses: Small fresh leaves eaten with chili sauce or papaya salad in Thailand
- Medicinal Uses: Indigenous Australians use it to make an analgesic
- Fungal Inhibition: Extracts inhibit fungi that attack wood
- Insect Inhibition: Aqueous extracts inhibit development of *Bactrocera cucurbitae* (melon fly)