

SPECIES: *PROSOPIS JULIFLORA*

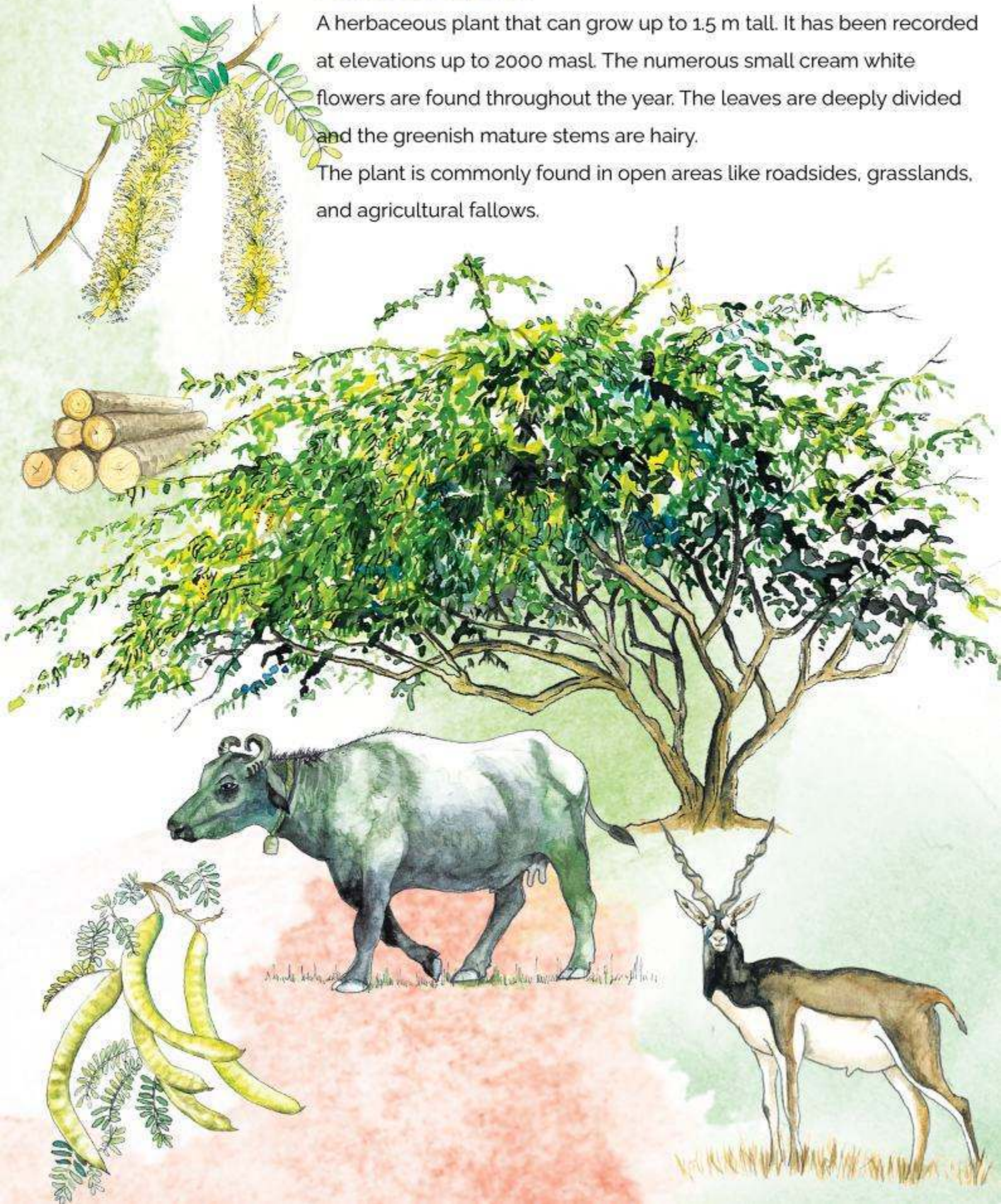
COMMON NAME: MESQUITE

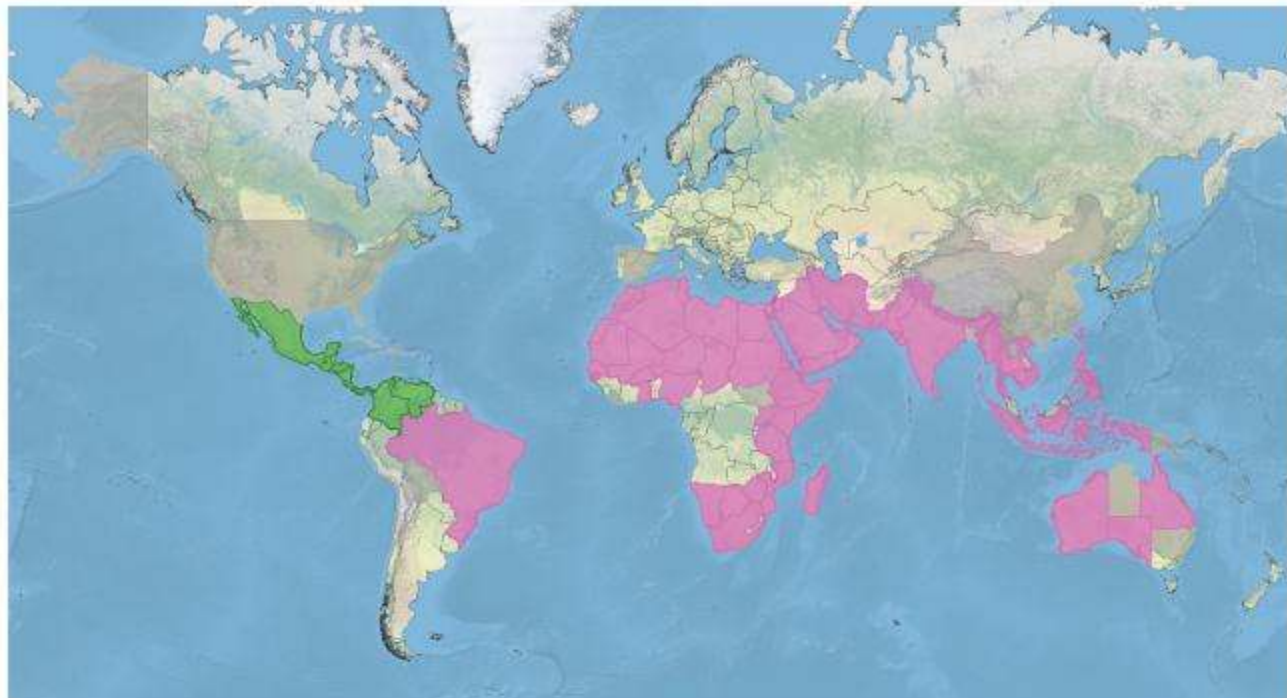
FAMILY: FABACEAE

Plant Description

A herbaceous plant that can grow up to 1.5 m tall. It has been recorded at elevations up to 2000 masl. The numerous small cream white flowers are found throughout the year. The leaves are deeply divided and the greenish mature stems are hairy.

The plant is commonly found in open areas like roadsides, grasslands, and agricultural fallows.





Source: CABI, 2022. *Prosopis juliflora*. In: Invasive Species Compendium. Wallingford, UK: CAB International. <https://www.cabi.org/lsc/datasheet/43942#toDistributionMaps> [accessed: 25/01/2022]

Introduced
Native
Origin not recorded

***Prosopis juliflora* FABACEAE**

Origin: Central and South America

Introduction: The plant was introduced in 1857 intentionally to halt further desertification in the Thar desert, India. It was also introduced in 1878 to peninsular India as a source of fuelwood.

Impacts: The plant has replaced grasslands, leading to a reduction in availability of fodder for livestock. It also reduces access to grazing lands and water sources, causing conflicts. Its thorns can cause injuries to people and livestock. The roots are adapted to tapping water from deep sources, which can lead to depletion of the water table.

The tree has been adopted as a source of fuelwood, construction poles, and as a raw material to make charcoal. Its pods are used as a fodder supplement for some livestock (e.g., buffalo).

Management: The trees can be removed by uprooting with the help of tractors and JCBs. In many areas they are managed as a source of fuelwood or to make charcoal.