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Zanthoxylum clava-herculis

[Synonyms : *Fagara clava-herculis*, *Xanthoxylum carolinianum*, *Zanthoxylum fraxineum*, *Zanthoxylum macrophyllum*]

SOUTHERN PRICKLY ASH is a deciduous shrub or tree. Native to the central and southern United States it has small greenish-yellow flowers.

It is also known as Club of Hercules, Hercules' club, Pepperwood, *Piikkisaarni -laji* (Finnish), Prickly ash, Sea ash, Shrubby prickly ash, Sting tongue, Tear blanket, Toothache tree, and Wait-a-bit, Wild orange.

Clava-herculis is derived from Latin *clava* (club, nail, key) and Latin *Herculis* (son of Jupiter and Alcmena) components meaning 'club of Hercules' a common name of this species.

North American Houma Indians used a pack of grated bark and root to ease toothache.

Its bark and fruit have similar medicinal uses today to those of prickly ash (*Zanthoxylum americanum*), particularly as a remedy for rheumatism and toothache.