

Asparagus setaceus

Scientific classification

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| Kingdom | : Plantae |
| Clade | : Angiosperms |
| Order | : Asparagales |
| Family | : Asparagaceae |
| Genus | : <i>Asparagus</i> |
| Species | : <i>A.setaceus</i> |
| Part used | : shoots, leaves |



Description

Asparagus setaceus is a scrambling perennial herb with tough green stems and leaves, which may reach several metres in length. The leaves are actually leaf-like cladodes up to 7 mm long by 0.1 mm in diameter, which arise in clumps of up to 15 from the stem, making a fine, soft green fern-like foliage. Occurring from spring to autumn, the small greenish-white bell-shaped flowers are 0.4 cm long, and are followed by small green berries, which blacken with maturity.

Medicinal uses

Asparagus was used as a medicinal herb against heart problems, dizziness and bee stings, as well as a laxative. It is also planted as a medicinal plant. Extracts from the shoots are used for cardiac diseases, while root decoctions are used as a diuretic medicine. The dried plant is reported to possess antibiotic properties. It is used as a malaria remedy.