

LOCAL NAMES

Arabic (arrad); Swahili (mgunga); Tigrigna (seraw)

BOTANIC DESCRIPTION

Acacia etbaica is a tree or shrub (min. 2) 2.5-12 m tall; trunk distinct with flattened or round crown in older trees; bark pale brown, brownish-black, reddish-grey or dark grey, smooth or fissured; spines in pairs at the nodes, brownish-white, of 2 kinds-small and recurved, to 7 mm long and long to 6 mm; slash fibrous and creamy white; twigs red-brown.

Leaves have 1-9 pairs of pinnae; leaflets in 4-35 pairs, pubescent, 0.5-4 x 0.2-1.3 mm; petiole 0.3-1 cm; petiole and rachis glands absent.

Inflorescences capitate, on axillary peduncles 0.7-4 cm long; involucre 1/3 to 2/3 up peduncle, or sometimes near the base; flowers white or cream; calyx 0.4-1 mm long, glabrous apices of lobes puberulous; corolla 2-3 mm long.

Fruit a pod, linear-oblong, purple-brown to red brown, shiny, straight, 2-12 x 0.6-2.2 cm, often attenuated at the base, glabrous or puberulous, with fine oblique or longitudinal veins, dehiscent; seeds about 8, brown or olive-brown, elliptic, flattened, 5.5 x 3.5-8 mm.

A. etbaica has a number of subspecies namely: subsp. *etbaica*, mainly found in Sudan and Somalia, subsp. *uncinata* Brenan found in Somalia, Uganda and Kenya and subsp. *platycarpa* Brenan found in Kenya and Tanzania. *A. etbaica* is also closely related to *A. reficiens* ssp. *misera* and *A. elatior*.

The generic name 'acacia' comes from the Greek word 'akis', meaning a point or a barb.

BIOLOGY

A. etbaica is hermaphroditic.

ECOLOGY

A. etbaica occurs in dry bushland, thickets, semi-desert scrub and wooded grasslands.

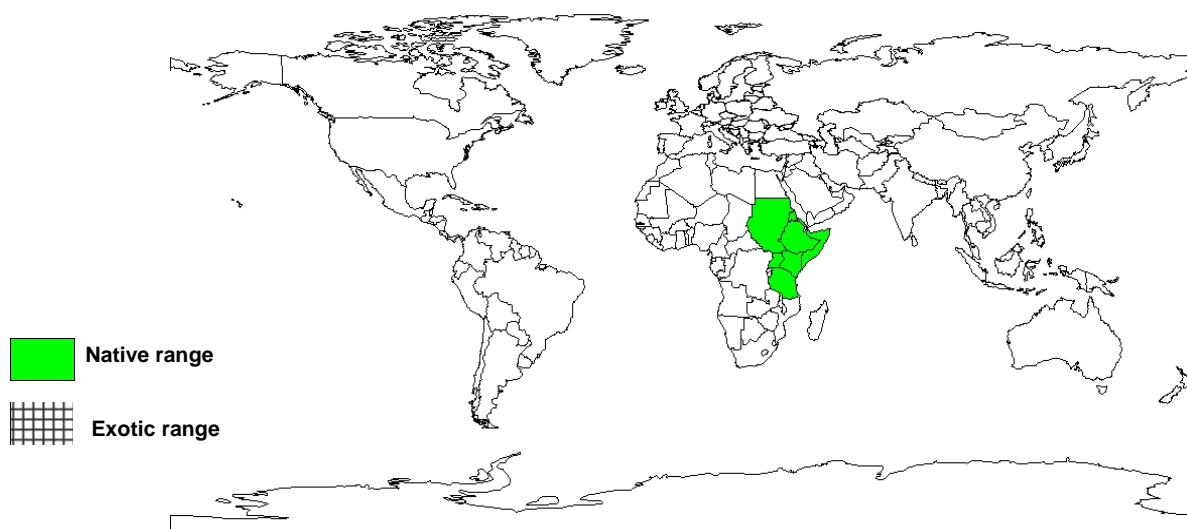
BIOPHYSICAL LIMITS

Altitude: 0-1 800 m, Mean annual rainfall: 200 -1400mm, Mean annual temperature: 22.3 deg.C

DOCUMENTED SPECIES DISTRIBUTION

Native: Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda

Exotic:



The map above shows countries where the species has been planted. It does neither suggest that the species can be planted in every ecological zone within that country, nor that the species can not be planted in other countries than those depicted. Since some tree species are invasive, you need to follow biosafety procedures that apply to your planting site.

PRODUCTS

Fuel: *A. etbaica* is a source of good firewood.

Timber: Provides the pillars and beams to hold the heavy earthen roofs of houses in northern Ethiopia.

Medicine: The bark is chewed as a stimulant and is also used in the treatment of gonorrhoea

GERMPLASM MANAGEMENT

Seed storage behaviour is orthodox.

FURTHER READNG

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SUGGESTED CITATION

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