

Indigenous

Af: *Sekekto*

Ar: *Arrad*

Bl: *Keresh*

Sh: *Seraw*

Tg: *Seraw*

Tr: *Kerets*

Ecology: Common in the central and northern highlands, e.g. around Mai-seraw, Quatit, Segenaiti, Mai-edaga, Korbaria, Tselema, Menguda, Seharti, Adi-tekelezan, Rora-mensa and Nakfa, 1,400-2,300 m. It also grows at lower elevations in Denakil plains, at about 1,000 m. This African species has several subspecies in different areas. They differ in details of pods, thorns and hairs. Subspecies *etbaica* grows in dry bushland.

Uses: **Firewood, timber** (construction), agricultural tools, walking sticks, **flavouring** (smoke from wood for flavouring milk), medicine (leaves), fodder, bee forage, **tannin**.

Description: A shrub or tree 2.5-12 m, the **crown often flattened**. **BARK:** Pale brown, becoming dark or black, deeply furrowed. **THORNS: Pale in straight pairs, 0.6-2.8 cm** (subsp. *etbaica*). Other subspecies have small red-brown spines pointing backwards, or both kinds. **LEAVES:** Compound, **1-9 pairs pinnae**, each with about 10-20 pairs **tiny leaflets**. **FLOWERS:** White-cream, in round heads on stalks about 2.5 cm. **FRUIT: Straight, shiny red-brown pods 2-12 cm, with longitudinal veins**, breaking open to set free about 8 seeds.

Propagation: Direct sowing at site.

Seed:

treatment: Immerse in boiling water, allow to cool and soak for 24 hours.

storage: Seeds can be stored for a year.

Management: Pollarding, coppicing.

Remarks: The leaves are used for treatment of wounds and skin diseases. There is also a local belief that if an ox incurs a leg injury while ploughing it can be cured by tying a branch to its tail.

