

Indigenous

Tg: *Lhai*

Eng: *Red thorn*

Ecology: One of the characteristic highland thorns of woodland and wooded grassland. It grows south to Tanzania, 1,500-2,000 m. Found in southern Eritrea, e.g. around Adi-quala.

Uses: **Firewood**, charcoal, timber (heavy construction, bridges), posts, **shade**, dye (bark).

Description: A conspicuously **flat-topped tree** to 15 m. **BARK:** Grey to dark brown, rough, grooved, branchlets brown, hairy. **THORNS:** Straight, grey-brown, small but up to 7 cm long. **LEAVES:** Compound, **leaf stalk 2-8 cm with 6-15 pairs pinnae** bearing many tiny **pointed** leaflets. **FLOWERS:** **Cream-yellow spikes to 7 cm**, flowering **branchlets covered with red gland dots**. **FRUIT:** **Short and wide pods, to 7 cm**, straight or curved, shiny brown, splitting on the tree to set free seed.

Propagation: Seedlings.

Seed: No. of seeds per kg: about 4,000. Many seeds are damaged by insects while still in pods. These can be separated from good seeds through immersion in water: bad seeds float.

treatment: Not necessary, but soaking in cold water for 12 hours enhances germination.

storage: Seed can be stored for long periods if kept cool, dry and insect free.

Management: Slow growing; lopping.

Remarks: The tree is not suitable for intercropping because of its broad canopy and heavy shade. Bark crushed in water can be sprinkled on hot pots to colour them red.

