

Acacia paolii

Fabaceae (Mimosaceae)

Indigenous

COMMON NAMES: **Boran:** Chachane, Wanga; **Gabra:** Chachane; **Malakote:** Chyachyaneh; **Orma:** Chachane; **Rendille:** Gomor; **Somali:** Gammur, Gommor, Jerin, Jahjahneh; **Turkana:** Eyelel.

DESCRIPTION: A multi-stemmed deciduous shrub or small tree with spreading flat-topped crown to 4.5 m high. **BARK:** Smooth, dark green, dotted with white lenticels. **THORNS:** Straight, in pairs up to 5 cm long. **LEAVES:** Grey-green, twice-divided, usually 4–9 pairs of pinnae; leaflets in 7–15 pairs. **FLOWERS:** In round heads, cream, produced when tree is leafless. **FRUIT:** Red or brownish pods with spreading white hairs. Splits open.

ECOLOGY: Found only in north-eastern Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya. Widespread in acacia bushlands or dwarf shrub grasslands of northern and eastern Kenya, 100–1,250 m. May be locally common near Lake Turkana, in Isiolo, Tana River and in Mandera Districts in depressions with clay soil and on gently undulating slopes with clay-loam soils, mainly in lowlands. Agroclimatic Zones VI–VII.

USES: Firewood, edible gum, medicine, fodder (leaves), bee forage, dead fence (thorny branches).

PROPAGATION: Seedlings, wildings. Seed germinates easily after fire.

MANAGEMENT: No management practice is commonly applied. Can be pruned if needed.

REMARKS: The species is an indicator of areas that can be cultivated. Used for making bomas (Somali).

FURTHER READING: Beentje, 1994.

