

Indigenous

Ar:	<i>Suffar abyad, Suffar ahmer</i>	Bl:	<i>Chea serwa</i>
Eng:	<i>White-galled acacia,</i> <i>White whistling thorn</i>	Hd:	<i>Botek</i>
Nr:	<i>Jelow</i>	Km:	<i>Etera</i>
Tg:	<i>Keih chea, Tseada chea</i>	Sh:	<i>Seaito</i>
		Tr:	<i>Chea</i>

- Ecology:** A typical tree of semi-arid zones across Africa. In Eritrea, it is found on seasonally flooded black-cotton soil, in river valleys and wooded grassland in the western and eastern lowlands as well as in the midlands, e.g. in Hazemo plains and around Ailagundet, Molki, Shambuko, Goluj, Halibmentel, Alghaeta plain, Beareza and Ghedem, 500-1,800 m.
- Uses:** **Firewood, charcoal,** poles, posts, fibre (bark), medicine (bark, gum), **fodder** (leaves), bee forage, nitrogen fixation, soil conservation, shade, windbreak, gum, tannin (bark), dye (bark).
- Description:** A small-to-medium-sized tree, up to 9 m, rather thin with layered branches or small, more rounded. **BARK:** Distinctive, powdery, **white to pale green** or **orange-red**, often peeling to reveal greenish underbark. **THORNS:** Wide-angled pairs of **strong white thorns to 8 cm**. In subspecies *fistula* the bases of a pair are swollen to form round ant galls. **LEAVES:** Compound, 3-7 pairs pinnae, raised glands just visible on leaf stalk. **FLOWERS:** Fragrant, **bright yellow** in **round heads over 1 cm across**, several beside the thorns. **FRUIT:** Bunches of narrow, curved pods, 7-20 cm, shiny light brown, narrowed between seeds, splitting open on the tree.
- Propagation:** Seedlings, wildings.
- Seed:** No. of seeds per kg: $\pm 20,000$.
- treatment:** Not necessary for fresh seed. Soak stored seed in boiling water for 5 minutes, allow to cool and continue soaking for 24 hours or nick seed coat.
- storage:** Seed can be stored for three months if kept cool, dry and insect free.
- Management:** Medium to fast growing; lopping, pollarding, coppicing.
- Remarks:** Two varieties are recognized in Eritrea: var. *seyal* and var. *fistula*. It is recommended for planting along stream banks and intercropping with cereals. The gum is not as good as that of *Acacia Senegal*. Villagers use fibre from the bark to make ropes.

