

Anogeissus leiocarpus (A. schimperi)

Combretaceae

Indigenous

Ar: *Shahab*

Bl: *Kirkira*

Km: *Bela*

Sh: *Hanse*

Tg: *Hanse*

Tr: *Kirkire*

Ecology: A tree with a wide range from Senegal to the Sudan, south to Zaire, from the southern limits of the Sahara to the edge of the rain forest, preferring moist soils, as in river valleys. In Eritrea, it is widely distributed on the eastern and western escarpments and in the western lowlands, e.g. around Semenawi-bahri, Debubawi-bahri, Adi-berebere, Adi-awsha, Omhajer, Habero and Mai-lam, 500-1,800 m. It often grows in association with *Combretum* and *Terminalia* and is most common in valleys and on lower hillsides.

Uses: **Firewood**, charcoal, **posts**, fodder (leaves), traditional smoke bath (like a sauna), river-bank stabilization.

Description: A tall deciduous tree to 12-30 m, the crown rounded and low branching. **BARK:** **Grey-yellow, scaly** becoming black; a dark pink gum exudes if cut. Young twigs brown, hairy, hanging down. **LEAVES:** Pale green and soft, **long-oval 4-7 cm, tip pointed, base narrowed to a short stalk**, alternate along the twigs. Leaf pale, hairy below with 4-8 veins. **FLOWERS:** Appear during the rainy season; very fragrant, in **yellow-green-cream heads** about 1 cm across, shortly stalked beside the leaves, sometimes in clusters. **FRUIT:** **Dark brown rounded capsules, cone-like**, crumble when touched breaking into numerous 2-winged shiny brown seeds 7 mm across. Remain a long time on the tree.

Propagation: Direct sowing, seedlings.

Seed: No. of seed per kg: 140,000-150,000.

treatment: No treatment needed. Low viability.

storage: Should not be stored more than 6 months.

Management: Pollarding, some ability to coppice. Very sensitive to fire.

Remarks: Slow growing but produces a valuable hard timber with dark brown-black heartwood, used for house building. Seedlings may spring up below mature trees.

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