

Indigenous

**Bl:** Chergelo

**Hd:** Wendra

**Nr:** Sheri

**Sh:** Karuwah

**Tg:** Awhi -tsergah

**Tr:** Awhi-tsergah

**Ecology:** This Cordia species grows from Eritrea to central and southern Africa. It is found in many habitats from wet or riverine forest to woodland and bush with Acacia-Euphorbia or grassland. In Eritrea, it grows in degraded parts of the central highlands, 400-2,000 m, often in association with *Acokanthera schimperi* and *Acacia tortilis*. Common in Ala plains and Hidai valley and in Semenawi-bahri.

**Uses:** Firewood, **poles** (house construction), tool handles, food (fruit), bee forage, medicine (leaves, bark), sandpaper (leaf).

**Description:** A multi-stemmed shrub or tree to 6 m, occasionally to 12 m. **BARK:** **Blue-grey, thin and fibrous, peeling in strips**, resembling the bark of Eucalyptus. **LEAVES:** Broadly oval to almost round, 5-8 cm long, margin lightly toothed, **surface above like sandpaper to the touch** but softly hairy below with prominent veins, on a stalk to 2 cm. Branchlets, **leaf and flower stalks densely covered with rusty hairs**. **FLOWERS:** Pale yellow, sharply fragrant, in dense terminal clusters, each flower tubular, about 1 cm across, calyx hairy and persistent. **FRUIT:** Oval, pointed, yellow to orange and soft when ripe, about 2 cm long, held in a hairy, **cup-shaped calyx which loosely covers one-third of the fruit**. The single seed is covered by jelly-like edible pulp.

**Propagation:** Seedlings.

**Seed:** No. of seeds per kg: 5,000-6,000. Germination is slow.

**treatment:** Soak in cold water for 6 hours; alternatively no treatment.

**storage:** Can be stored for more than a year.

**Management:** Moderate to slow growing; pollarding, coppicing.

**Remarks:** The wood has been used for walking sticks.

