

Indigenous

- Ecology:** Widespread in Africa in-low altitude semi-arid areas. It prefers moist river beds but can grow on stony or saline soils. Common in North Eastern Region.
- Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, timber (construction, furniture, bows, traditional stools, walking sticks), food (fruit), medicine (roots, bark), fodder (leaves), bee forage, gum, fibres, fire making, glue (fruit).
- Description:** A deciduous tangled shrub or small multi-branched tree 3-12cm often with drooping branches. **BARK:** young bark smooth grey-white, later yellow-brown to black, roughly grooved. **LEAVES:** **grey-green, narrowly oblong** to 9 cm long, feel rough to touch but hairs both sides, tip rounded or notched, on a **stalk about 1 cm**. Leaves more or less opposite. **FLOWERS:** tubular and small, fragrant, in cream terminal clusters, on branched hairy stalks. **FRUIT:** ovoid, to 2 cm, clearly tipped, held in a calyx cup, **orange- red, like egg yolk** with very **sticky edible pulp** around 1-4 tiny seeds. The calyx has a toothed edge and covers one-third of the fruit.
- Propagation:** Seedlings, cuttings, wildings.
- Seed:** No. of seeds per kg: about 14,000. Germination up to 60% after 30 days.
- treatment:** not necessary for fresh seed. Pour warm water on stored seed and soak until cold.
- storage:** seed can be stored for a short period (3 months) at room temperature.
- Management:** Fairly slow growing; lopping, pollarding, coppicing.
- Remarks:** A very useful tree in arid areas. Dry branches are flexible, light and do not snap; used for supports on camel pack-saddles. Fruit have a high vitamin content.

