

Indigenous

Af: Amaito

Ar: Mashilah

Hd: Ghui

Km: Burumbura

Nr: Abumbu

Sh: Yebusus

Tr: Refna, Ref

Ecology: A tree of hot dry Acacia-Commiphora bushland from Egypt south to Zaire, Tanzania east to Arabia and India. In Eritrea, it is frequent in the lowlands from 0 to 1,500 m, e.g. around Adobha, Keru, Girmaica, Hawashait, Ghizgiza, Akurdet, Metkelabiet, Denakil plains and on Dahlak Islands, often in association with *Acacia asak* and *A. tortilis*.

Uses: Timber (furniture), medicine (pods), **fodder, ornamental**, tannin (fruit).

Description: A deciduous tree usually 5-7 m with a rounded spreading crown, branches drooping. **BARK:** Quite conspicuous, **smooth and shiny, pale-yellow to grey-white**, sometimes flaking. **LEAVES:** Twice compound to 15 cm with 2-12 pairs of pinnae, each with 10-25 opposite pairs of leaflets, **long oblong about 1 cm, dull green** with tiny hairs both sides. **FLOWERS:** Flat green buds open to showy flowers **near tips of branchlets, only one of a group flowering at a time, 4 white petals over 3 cm long with wavy cut-up edges and one smaller yellow petal, all fading yellow-orange; 10 red stamens to 10 cm hang out of the flower.** **FRUIT:** Red-brown pods **flat and thin, pointed both ends about 13-20 cm**, contain smooth olive-brown oblong seeds in horizontal pockets.

Propagation: Seedlings, direct sowing, wildings, cuttings.

Seed:

treatment: Immerse in hot water, allow to cool and soak for 24 hours.

storage: Perishable so should not be stored.

Management:

Remarks: An infusion of the pods is used as a laxative.

Delonix elata

Caesalpinioideae

