

Diospyros abyssinica

Ebenaceae

Indigenous

Tg: Tselimo

Tr: Aira, Tselimo

- Ecology:** A widespread African forest tree found in highland forest on drier sites and upper slopes, often in shallow soils. In Eritrea it grows on the eastern escarpment, central highlands and western escarpment, e.g. in Filfil, Medhanit, Sabur, Dongolo, Mensa, Nalai, Mai-hutsa and Areza, 750-2,000 m.
- Uses:** **Firewood, charcoal, timber** (furniture, local construction), implements, tool handles, shade, walking sticks.
- Description:** A tall evergreen tree with a straight, slender trunk about 20 m but reaching 40 m in forests. It has a relatively **small mushroom-shaped crown**. **LEAVES:** Shiny dark green, long oval to 16 cm, narrowing to the tip, the **edge wavy, midrib clear below**. The short stalk is grooved. **Dry black leaves** can be seen below a tree. **FLOWERS:** Small, white and fragrant in clusters beside the leaves. **FRUIT:** Round to 1.5 cm across held in a **cup-shaped calyx, about 1 cm long, the tip pointed, red-yellow then black** when ripe. Sometimes in dense clusters.
- Propagation:** Seedlings, wildings.
- Seed:** No. of seeds per kg: 2,500-3,000.
- treatment:** Not necessary.
- storage:** Seeds store for several years under normal conditions.
- Management:** Pruning, pollarding, coppicing.
- Remarks:** The wood is pale, hard and tough, difficult to plane and not durable. The heartwood is darker.

