

Dobera glabra

Salvadoraceae

Indigenous

Af: Gharsa
Nr: Dame
Tr: Gherset

Ar: Zobra
Sh: Gharsa

Hd: Mikae
Tg: Gharsai

- Ecology:** A shrub found throughout the dry areas of north-east Africa to Uganda and Kenya. In Eritrea, it is found in Acacia savannah and woodland up to 1,250 m. It can grow on rocky sites in dry areas as well as in saline and heavy calcareous loam soils. It is common in the eastern and western lowlands, e.g. in Hidai valley, Wadi-labka, Shebah, Ghahtelai, Gonge, Hashishai, Boroka and Adobha.
- Uses:** Furniture, camel saddles, **food** (fruit, seeds), **fodder** (leaves), shade, containers, tooth brushes (stems), gum, **preservative** (water from boiled seeds is used to preserve local butter—*meret*).
- Description:** A much-branched, evergreen shrub or tree to 8 m. BARK: Green to dark **grey and patchy**. LEAVES: Opposite, yellow to **grey-green, thick**, smooth, veins hardly seen, up to 7 cm long, tip usually notched. FLOWERS: White, in branched heads. FRUIT: Ovoid to 2 cm, with 1-2 flat seeds in soft edible pulp.
- Propagation:** Direct sowing, wildings.
- Seed:** Seeds should be sown directly into pots. No. of seeds per kg: 600-1,000.
- treatment:** Not necessary.
- storage:** Seeds do not store well. Therefore, use fresh seed for best results.
- Management:** Slow growing but very hardy once established. Drought and termite resistant.
- Remarks:** The fruits and seeds are a very important food during times of drought. It is sensitive to waterlogging. *D. glabra* is becoming increasingly rare.

