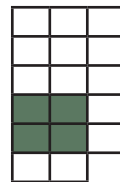


# *Dodonaea viscosa*

Sapindaceae



## Indigenous

**Ag:** *Kerara*  
**Am:** *Kitkita*  
**Br:** *Hidesa*  
**Eng:** *Hop bush*  
**Sd:** *Itancha*  
**Or:** *Etacha, Tedecha*  
**Sm:** *Den, Hayramat*  
**Wt:** *Geregetwa*

## Ecology

This tree has a wide natural range – Australia, India, tropical and subtropical Africa. It does well in a wide range of climates and soils. A pioneer species in disturbed ground. Widespread in Ethiopia in a variety of habitats, from riverine forest to rocky soils or arid marginal areas in Dry and Moist Kolla and lower Weyna Dega agroclimatic zones in almost all regions, 1,000–2,700 m.

## Uses

Firewood, charcoal, poles, tool handles, medicine (decoctions from leaves and twigs, boiled roots), bee forage, soil conservation, windbreak, live fence, tooth brushes.

## Description

A thin-stemmed shrub or small evergreen tree, 3–8 m with a light crown. All parts are smooth and resinous when young. **BARK:** Dark grey, grooved, peeling. Branchlets red and sticky. **LEAVES:** Simple, up to 13 cm long, tip pointed, thin, narrow, stiffly erect, tapering to a stalk; young leaves light green, shiny and sticky. **FLOWERS:** Green-yellow, male and female separate, insignificant. **FRUIT:** Very many distinctive

capsules, each 2 cm across with 2 - 3 papery wings, sometimes inflated, green-red-pink, appearing like “blossom”, becoming light brown, small seeds inside.

## Propagation

Seedlings, wildings, direct sowing at site.

## Seed

Germination rate 30–70 % after bout 15 days. About 100,000 seed per kg.

**Treatment:** Not necessary.

**Storage:** Seed can be stored for up to a year.

## Management

Fast growing. Little or no management required once established.

## Remarks

The species is not browsed and therefore easy to establish. The wood is hard and heavy but the stem has a rather small diameter. A good live fence for dry areas, susceptible to fire but regenerates rapidly after bush fires. It is especially useful in reclaiming poor land, including marshes to sand dunes.

