

Dovyalis abyssinica

Flacourtiaceae

Indigenous

Sh: Datahor

Tr: Arake

Ecology: A shrubby tree found from Ethiopia to Malawi in upland rain forest, dry evergreen forest and by river banks, sometimes in more open woodland. In Eritrea, it is common on the eastern escarpment, 700-2,300 m, e.g. around Mt. Bizen, Mt. Soira and Ghinda.

Uses: Food (fruit), medicine (roots), bee forage, **live fence**, soil conservation.

Description: A spiny evergreen shrub or tree to 5 m, crown rounded. **BARK:** Grey, spines to 1.5 cm long. Branchlets with **very clear dotted breathing pores** (lenticels). **LEAVES:** Shiny, dark green, **oval, to 5 cm, tip blunt, edge unevenly rounded**, stalk and veins reddish. **FLOWERS:** No petals but 5 yellow-green-white sepals, females single but male flowers in clusters with many stamens (40-60). **FRUIT:** A **round berry about 2 cm across, surrounded** by the calyx, green and hairy at first then smooth **orange-yellow pulp** around the seeds.

Propagation: Seedlings.

Seed:

treatment: After soaking the fruit in cold water for 24 hours break up the flesh to release the seeds.

storage: Stores well.

Management: Lopping, coppicing, pruning.

Remarks: The fruit are edible but very acid.

enlarged
male flower

