

Indigenous

Sh: Kurwah

Tg: Kurbah

- Ecology:** A common African plant widely distributed from west, east to southern Africa in moist evergreen forest, forest patches and secondary bushland, often a remnant tree on farm land. In Eritrea, it grows in the northern and central highlands and at the foot of the eastern escarpment, e.g. around Tobo, Rora-Mensa, Rora-habab, Tobo and Filfil, 400 -2,000 m.
- Uses:** **Firewood, timber** (furniture), **farm tools**, walking sticks, **medicine** (root juice), **fodder** (leaves), bee forage, **mulch**, fibre (ropes made from bark).
- Description:** A deciduous shrub or tree 2-9 m, often branching from the base, with weak drooping branches. **LEAVES:** Oval but wide or narrow to 20 cm x 12 cm, the **tip pointed, base rounded**, on a stalk 1-3 cm. The leaf is rarely flat and bubbles up between the veins. **Veins are raised below and have hairs.** **FLOWERS:** In **loose large heads** to 15 cm across, on **hairy stalks**, often covering the tree. The small flowers are white-yellow-pink, quite fragrant. The **divided style and brown-black anthers hang out** of the bell-like flowers. **FRUIT:** Ripen October to March in large heads. Round orange-red and berry like, the fruit turn black. Each is **pointed** and breaks into **4 parts**, each containing a hard, comma-shaped seed.
- Propagation:** Seedlings, direct sowing, wildings.
- Seed:** No. of seeds per kg: 20,000-30,000.
- treatment:** Not necessary.
- storage:** Seeds can be stored. Cut the fruiting head when 80 % of the fruit are mature to extract the seed.
- Management:** Pruning, pollarding, lopping and coppicing.
- Remarks:** The light, durable wood is often used to make yokes for oxen. Roots and leaves are poisonous to man but the root juice is used to help heal wounds.

Ehretia cymosa

Boraginaceae