

Euclea schimperi (E. racemosa)

Ebenaceae

Indigenous

Ar: *Ugum*

Bl: *Kiliaw*

Sh: *Kiliawto*

Tg: *Kiliaw*

Tr: *Gum*

Ecology: A pioneering shrub that occurs from Eritrea to East Africa and into southern Africa. In Eritrea, it grows in dry woodland, bushland, riverine forest and marginal areas, 1,500-2,300 m all over the central and northern highlands and midlands in association with *Acacia ethbaica*, *Carissa schimperi* and *Carissa edulis*.

Uses: **Firewood, farm tools, tool handles**, food (fruit), ornamental, soil conservation, roofing material, live fence, boundary marking, tooth brush, smoke bath (like sauna), medicine.

Description: A shrub or small tree 3-4 m. **BARK:** Grey-black, rather smooth. **LEAVES:** Usually **opposite, shiny** and leathery, dark green above but **dull and pale below, long, oval, about 5 cm**, the tip rounded, narrowing to the base. The thick edge often curls right under. **FLOWERS:** Small, **cream-white and** sweet-scented, in short sprays to 8 cm, beside leaves, male flowers with many stamens. **FRUIT:** Round and very small, **less than 1 cm**, green at first, **ripening purple-black** with thin edible flesh around the seeds.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings.

Seed:

treatment: Not necessary.

storage: Can be stored in air-tight containers at room temperature.

Management: Coppicing.

Remarks: The wood is heavy and hard and burns very well.

