

Euphorbia tirucalli

Euphorbiaceae

Tropical Africa

Ar: *Injil*

Bh: *Kenchib*

Eng: *Finger euphorbia*

Tg: *Kenchib*

Tr: *Kenchib*

- Ecology:** A succulent shrub frequently planted as a hedge in dry areas but also found as a tree. It is believed to have originated in tropical Africa, but is now widespread and naturalized in certain villages of Eritrea. It is common around Nefasit, Ghinda, Adi-quala, Meraguz, Keren and Dekemhare, 1,500-2,200 m.
- Uses:** Medicine (young branches), fish poison (latex), boundary marker, **live fence.**
- Description:** A dense straight-stemmed tree to 6 m or more, **the branchlets smooth green, cylindrical** in dense masses. LEAVES: Small, present on young stems, soon dropping. FLOWERS: Yellow-cream, small in dense clusters. FRUIT: **3-part capsules, hard, purple-green**, less than 1 cm across.
- Propagation:** Cuttings strike easily.
- Seed:**
- treatment:**
- storage:**
- Management:** Fast growing. Coppicing, trimming and top pruning to make a fence.
- Remarks:** Medicine from the plant must be used with extreme care due to its high toxicity. The latex is very poisonous and harmful to the eyes. Human milk has been reported as an antidote.

