

Ficus sycomorus

Moraceae

Indigenous

Af: *Subula*
Km: *Saghila*
Tr: *Shaghla*

Bl: *Bamba*
Sh: *Subula*

Eng: *Sycamore fig*
Tg: *Saghla*

Ecology: One of the commonest African fig trees occurring from Egypt to Namibia and in Madagascar, often in drier country and found along rivers and lake margins, in woodlands and wooded grasslands, evergreen bushlands, forest edges and forest clearings, 500-2,400 m. In Eritrea, it grows all over the country mainly along river banks, 500-2,100 m.

Uses: Firewood, carvings, food (fruit), **medicine** (latex), mulch, soil conservation, **soil improvement**, **river-bank stabilization**, ornamental, shade, bee hives.

Description: A large semi-deciduous spreading tree to 25 m, sometimes with stem buttresses and the **base commonly spreading over the ground**. **BARK:** Distinctive **yellow to cream-brown, smooth**. **LEAVES:** Oval to **almost circular**, to 15 cm, upper surface rough to touch, margin wavy, roughly toothed, **base heart shaped**, a **hairy stalk to 3 cm**. **FRUIT:** In leaf axils or in dense clusters on main branches and trunk, **each rounded, usually to 2.5 cm long, wider at the tip, yellow-red when ripe**, edible.

Propagation: Cuttings strike readily.

Seed:
treatment:
storage:

Management: Fairly fast growing. Pruning, lopping to reduce shade.

Remarks: A sacred tree for various communities. Figs are eaten by livestock, birds and wild animals. They can also be dried and have a good flavour and high food value. Can be planted with crops. The wood is pale and easy to work.

