

Flueggea virosa (Securinega virosa)

Euphorbiaceae

Indigenous

Sh: Kekea

Tg: Harmazo

Ecology: A widespread African shrub extending to South Africa and occurring in deciduous woodland, at forest margins and on rocky outcrops. In Eritrea, it is common in the eastern and western lowlands and midlands, 300-1,800 m, e.g. around Dongolo, Ghinda, Mai-mefalis, Mai-dima and Shetel.

Uses: **Firewood**, timber (furniture), food (fruit), medicine (leaves and roots).

Description: A deciduous much-branched shrub, usually 1-3 m, occasionally a tree to 7 m. **BARK:** Red-brown, smooth, later rough. **Branchlets and leaf stalks purple-red.** **LEAVES:** Simple and alternate, very variable, to 6 cm, **wider at the tip**, which may be notched, **grey below.** **FLOWERS:** Male and female trees. Flowers **small, green-yellow, sweet-scented in leaf axils**, male flowers in clusters but only 1-5 female flowers. **FRUIT: Small white berries**, only 5 mm across but edible and sweet.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings, cuttings.

Seed:

treatment: Not necessary.

storage:

Management:

Remarks: The leaves and roots have been used to treat malaria, pneumonia and diarrhoea. Elsewhere pounded leaves have been used as an insect repellent.

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