

Indigenous

Ar: *Mutraq*
Sh: *Habeno*

Bl: *Habina*
Tg: *Habene*

Nr: *Dawro*
Tr: *Hafule*

Ecology: A shrub of the arid areas in Africa and India, often on river banks liable to flooding, or on stony ground, in the shade of larger trees. In Eritrea, it grows throughout the country, 500-1,700 m. Common around upper and lower Mereb, Shambuko, Omhajer, Antore, Kenafena, Bogos, Mensa and on the Ala plains.

Uses: **Firewood**, poles, tool handles, farm tools (fork), **food** (fruit), medicine (roots, bark), **fodder** (leaves), **fibre** (bark), walking sticks, bows, arrows.

Description: A deciduous shrub about 3 m with very distinctive leaves; young parts covered with **pale silky hairs**, branches purple-brown. **LEAVES: Almost round to 12 cm across**, on stalks to 4 cm; paler below and more hairy, **5 veins clearly seen**. **FLOWERS:** Pink, turning yellow with age, in **small clusters without stalks opposite leaves**. **FRUIT:** Usually single, **soft and hairy** when ripe, red-brown, about 1 **cm** across, 1-2 hard seeds within each nut.

Propagation: Seedlings.

Seed: No. of seeds per kg: 16,000-17,000.

treatment: Soak in cold water for 12 hours. Germination is good and completed after 6 weeks.

storage: Can be stored for a year if kept cool in airtight containers.

Management: Slow growing.

Remarks: A much-liked sweet fruit.

