

Juniperus procera

Cupressaceae

Indigenous

Ar: Arar
Tg: Tsihdi

Eng: African pencil cedar
Tr: Nered

Sh: Seredo

- Ecology:** A valuable timber tree indigenous to Eritrea and eastern Africa in highland forests. It does best in high-rainfall areas but can survive quite dry conditions once established. It grows mostly on the upper rim of the eastern escarpment from Mt. Soira in the south to Mt. Hager in the north, 2,000-3,000 m.
- Uses:** Firewood, **poles, posts, timber** (floors, roof shingles, pencils, joinery), medicine (bark, leaves, twigs, buds), **ornamental**, shade, windbreak.
- Description:** An evergreen tree about 40 m with a straight trunk, although often fluted. A pyramidal shape when young. The foliage is **finer and more open than cypress**. **BARK:** Thin grey-brown, grooved and peeling with age. **LEAVES:** **Prickly, young leaves to 1 cm**, soon replaced by scale-like mature leaves, blue-green, triangular and closely overlapping on the branchlets. **FRUIT:** Male cones small and yellow with pollen, female **purple-blue fleshy "berries" about 8 mm**, the pulp containing 1-4 hard seeds.
- Propagation:** Seedlings, wildings—often numerous.
- Seed:** Germination rate 20-30%. No. of seeds per kg: 40,000-50,000.
- treatment:** Not necessary.
- storage:** Up to a year if stored in a cool, dry place.
- Management:** Fairly fast growing in the open but otherwise slow. Prune and thin trees for timber and poles.
- Remarks:** Litter fall from this tree makes the soil acid so it should not be grown with crops. It regenerates well and deserves high priority in reforestation. The wood is termite resistant. The tree is now rare due to over-exploitation. Although belonging to the cypress family, this subgroup has **no** dry cones like Cupressus.

