

Indigenous

Ar: *Khashkhash*

Tg: *Zengherefa*

**Ecology:** A tree distributed in savannah areas from the Sudan and Uganda westward to Senegal, and also occurring in Ethiopia and Kenya. In Eritrea, it grows in wooded grassland and woodlands and in arid areas, 700-1,900 m, e.g. at Dongolo, Ghinda, Nefasit, Keren, Dembelas and Filfil.

**Uses:** **Firewood**, charcoal, timber, poles, tool handles, fodder, bee forage.

**Description:** A shrubby deciduous tree 3-12 m. **BARK:** Light grey, slightly furrowed, flaking to show yellow underbark, dark and rough with age. **LEAVES:** Compound on stalks 15-45 cm with **5-7 long oblong leaflets**, 5-18 cm, **grey-green and hairy both sides**. **FLOWERS:** Conspicuous in flower just before or with new leaves, **loose flower heads to 60 cm hang down bearing many pink-mauve-deep lilac pea-like flowers**, each about 1 cm, the bell-shaped **calyx purple with short white hairs**. **FRUIT:** **Thin, flat pods, narrow oblong about 10 cm**, edges slightly thickened, contain 1-4 seeds. Showers of **pale yellow-green pods dry yellow-brown, papery**, hanging on the tree for some time.

**Propagation:** Seedlings, wildings, direct sowing.

**Seed:** About 6,000 seeds per kg.

**treatment:** Soak in cold water for 12 hours. Germination is good and fast.

**storage:** Can retain viability for a long time at room temperature if kept dry and free from insects.

**Management:** Fast growing.

**Remark:** In some countries it is an important tree for browse and a source of pole timber, firewood and charcoal. The hard wood can survive bush fires. It is one of the most important bee trees for both pollen and nectar in semi-arid lowlands.

Lonchocarpus bussei (L. laxiflorus)

*Papilionoideae*

