

Maesa lanceolata

Myrsinaceae

Indigenous

Ar: *Arar*

Tg: *Sawarja*

Tr: *Cafta*

Ecology: A straggling shrub or tree in woodlands below 2,400 m, extending to southern Africa. It is often the first woody species in a succession to forest and also often riverine. In Eritrea, it grows on the eastern and western escarpments, e.g. around lower Mereb, Mensa and Ghinda, commonly in association with *Dodonaea angustifolia*, *Carissa* spp. and *Euclea schimperi*, 700-2,000 m.

Uses: Firewood, baking bread for tea (leaves), **medicine** (fruit), **live fence**.

Description: A shrub or small tree about 5 m. BARK: Grey-brown, rough. Pale dots of breathing pores on branchlets. LEAVES: Simple, **wide oval**, usually up to **10 cm** long, shiny green above, **pale below**, thick and leathery, the edge **well toothed, tip pointed**, a leaf stalk 2-3 cm, often yellow. FLOWERS: Tiny cream-white, in fragrant branched heads to 10 cm beside leaves; stalks and calyx hairy. FRUIT: Very small, round, **white and fleshy, topped by the flower remains**. Small black seeds inside.

Propagation: Seedlings.

Seed: A prolific seeder.

treatment: Not necessary.

storage: Mature and properly dried seed can be stored in air-tight containers at room temperature.

Management: Lopping, coppicing.

Remarks:

