

Maytenus arbutifolia

Celastraceae

Indigenous

Sh: Adad

Tg: Atat

Tr: Hergitte

**Ecology:** A shrub that occurs in forests and on forest edges, grasslands and river banks. It is widespread in Ethiopia and Kenya and in Eritrea most common in the central highlands and eastern and western escarpments, e.g. around Rora-habab, Mt. Bizen, Mt. Seled, Quahaito and Asmara, 1,700-2,700 m.

**Uses:** **Firewood, farm tools, fodder (leaves), bee forage, live fence, fencing** (thorny branches).

**Description:** A shrub usually 1-3 m or a small tree to 12 m. **Sharp spines 4-7 cm long.** The grey to dark brown branches may be hairy and dotted with white breathing pores. **LEAVES:** Alternate, sometimes growing out of spines, quite variable, **hard or leathery**, oval to round, usually to 6 cm long, shortly stalked, the **edge with small rounded teeth.** **FLOWERS:** Sweet-scented, white, very small, in heads on hairy stalks, 5 petals in each flower, always appearing with leaves. **FRUIT:** A dry 3-part capsule, only 8 mm across, green-purple, but **red when mature**, opening to set free **1-4 seeds**, each **shiny orange-brown** with a **small aril** at the base, soft and folded, white-pink, **ripening purple.**

**Propagation:** Seedlings.

**Seed:** A prolific seeder.

**treatment:** Not necessary.

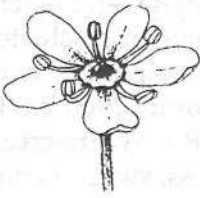
**storage:** Can be stored if kept cold in air-tight containers.

**Management:**

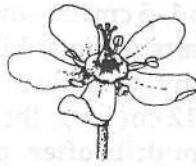
**Remarks:** Planted as a fence on farms.



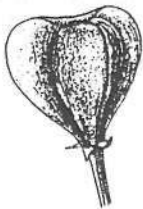
flowers



male



female



fruit capsule



seed with aril



DAMTEW T.