

Indigenous

Bl: Alendia

Km: Masketima

Tg: Alendia

Tr: Geret harmaz

Ecology: One of several African species found from Senegal to the Sudan. In Eritrea, it is common in woodland and bushland throughout the country, 700-2,400 m.

Uses: **Firewood**, timber (construction), walking sticks, medicine (leaves), fodder, smoke bath (like sauna).

Description: A shrub or small tree to 3 m tall. **BARK:** Rough, grey. **LEAVES:** Compound, on a stalk to 7 cm, with 15-17 tiny oblong leaflets, 6-7 mm long, grey-green and white-hairy below. **FLOWERS:** 1-2 flowers together, **purple, pea-shaped**, the largest petal about 15 mm and rounded at the base, surrounded by a **hairy calyx**. **The flower remains a long time, turning brown.** **FRUIT:** A small pod, strongly curved, hairy and rough, containing 5-6 seeds.

Propagation: Seedlings.

Seed: 70,000-80,000 seeds per kg.

treatment: Soak in cold water for 24 hours.

storage: Can retain viability for 1-2 years if kept well dried in airtight containers.

Management: Slow growing, coppicing.

Remarks: Macerated leaves can be used to cure body inflammation. This species is closely related to *O. kirkii* found further south.

