

Osyris quadripartita (O. abyssinica)

Santalaceae

Indigenous

Sh: *Aras*

Tg: *Kerets*

Tr: *Kerets*

Ecology: There are only two species of *Osyris* and this one is a small tree that occurs throughout Africa and beyond. It grows in gallery forests, *Juniperus*, *Combretum* and *Dodonea* woodland, on rocky slopes, degraded woodland and scrub, 1,500-2,300 m. In Ethiopia it occurs throughout the highlands, e.g. around Bogos, Mensa, Zalambessa and Quahaito.

Uses: Firewood, bee forage, **tannin** (bark and leaves), soil conservation.

Description: A much-branched evergreen shrub or tree 1-7 m, branches hanging down. It is extremely variable in leaf and size. LEAVES: Alternate, blue-green or yellow-green, **slightly fleshy, long oval 1-7 cm, tip very sharp, edge thickened**. FLOWERS: **Tiny, yellow-green, on stalked heads beside leaves**, 3 female flowers together but 5-15 male flowers, in flower most of the year. FRUIT: **Bright red, flask-shaped, 7 mm long**, juicy and edible, containing the seed.

Propagation: Seedlings, direct sowing at site.

Seed:

treatment:

storage:

Management:

Remarks:

