

Ozoroa insignis (Heeria reticulata)

Anacardiaceae

Indigenous

Bl: Gengera

Hd: Lala

Tg: Zanzai

Tr: Genji

Ecology: Widely distributed from Eritrea to Zaire and southern Africa, 0-2,200 m. In Eritrea, it grows on the central, eastern and western escarpments, e.g. around Aibaba, Kuruh and Adi-neamen. It is often found on rocky hillsides and extending to forest edges and higher-rainfall woodlands.

Uses: Timber (furniture, door frames), medicine (bark, roots, twigs), gum (fruit).

Description: A small, semi-deciduous shrub or tree to 14 m, the bole often twisted, with a light rounded crown. **BARK:** Grey, corky, **widely grooved and scaly, exuding drops of creamy resin if cut.** The branchlets are covered with yellow hairs. **LEAVES:** Leathery, often 3 together, very variable, 5-17 cm long, **dull green above, but very hairy below, the veins clear and parallel, the edge rolled under.** **FLOWERS:** Small, cream-white in hairy sprays to 17 cm. **FRUIT:** Small, red, **bean-shaped, flattened, shiny black when ripe,** on branched sprays, one very hard seed inside.

Propagation Seedlings, root suckers.

Seed info.: No. of seeds per kg: 35,000-40,000. Germination is good, completed after 3 weeks.

treatment: Not necessary.

storage: Seeds should not be stored as viability is lost within a few weeks.

Management: Coppicing.

Remarks: The dark red wood is easy to work, tough, durable and termite-resistant.

