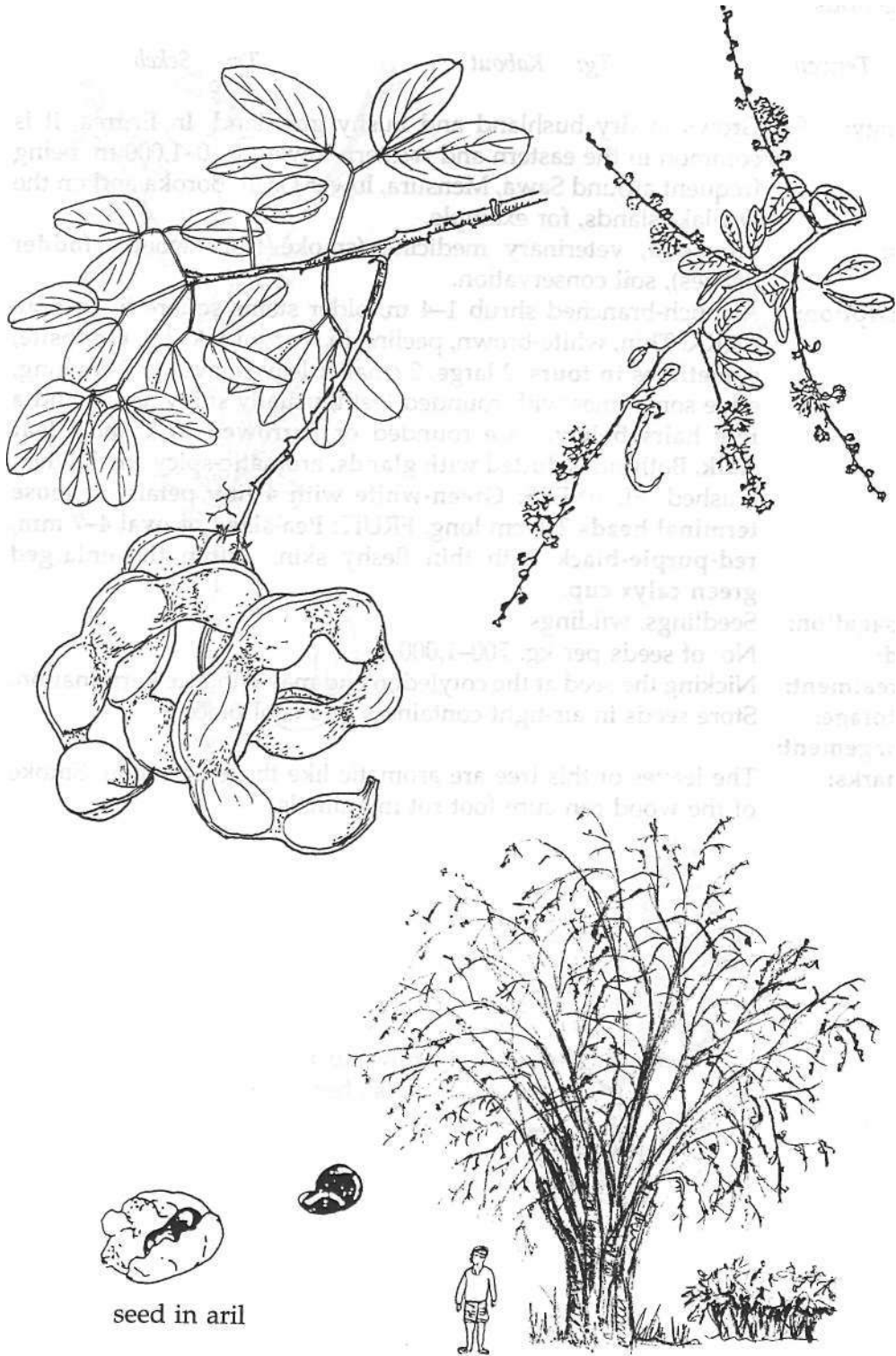


South America

Tg: Temri-hindi *Tr:* Temer-hindi
Eng: Madras thorn, Manilla tamarind

- Ecology:** Originally from South America, this tree is tolerant of most soils, including very poor sandy soils. In Eritrea, it is cultivated in the eastern and western lowlands as an ornamental, for shade and as a hedge. The provenance that grows in Eritrea is salt tolerant and also tolerates arid and semi-arid conditions, 500-1,600 m.
- Uses:** Firewood, poles, timber (general construction), **food and drink** (fruit pulp), **fodder** (leaves, pods, seeds), bee forage, soil conservation, nitrogen fixation, river-bank stabilization, ornamental, **shade**, windbreak, live fence, tannin and oil (seeds), dune fixation.
- Description:** A thin shapeless shrub or tree 4-15 m. **BARK:** Pale and smooth with horizontal marks, bole short, young branches thorny, drooping. **LEAVES:** Thin stalks bear **2 pairs of leaflets, each to 5 cm**, asymmetric oval, the tip rounded or notched, short spines at the base of each leaf pair. **FLOWERS:** Small, cream-yellow on a short stalk, bunches of green-white stamens 1 cm across. **FRUIT: Heavy pods, about 12 cm, spirally twisted**, narrowed between seeds, red when mature, splitting to release glossy black seeds almost covered with the fleshy red and white edible aril. A sweet pulp surrounds the seeds.
- Propagation:** Seedlings, direct sowing, cuttings.
- Seed:** No. of seeds per kg: 7,000-26,000.
- treatment:** Not necessary.
- storage:** Can be stored in air-tight containers.
- Management:** Fairly fast growing; coppicing, trimming (for live fence).
- Remarks:** The species has the potential for becoming a weed in moist climates if not well managed. It is popular as a spiny live fence to keep out livestock. The timber of a large tree is strong and flexible, heavy and red-brown. It is difficult to cut but can be used in making local ploughs. The flowers are a good source of nectar and pollen for honey bees.



seed in aril