

Premna resinosa

Verbenaceae

Indigenous

Hd: Tetwen

Tg: Kabout

Tr: Sekeb

Ecology: Grows in dry bushland and bushy grassland. In Eritrea, it is common in the eastern and western lowlands, 0-1,000 m, being frequent around Sawa, Mensura, lower Gash, Boroka and on the Dahlak Islands, for example.

Uses: **Firewood**, veterinary medicine (smoke from wood), **fodder** (leaves), soil conservation.

Description: A much-branched shrub 1-4 m, older stems square in section. **BARK:** Thin, white-brown, peeling in strips. **LEAVES:** **Opposite, sometimes in fours**, 2 large, 2 smaller leaves, oval to 7 cm long, edge sometimes with rounded teeth, usually shiny above and **a few hairs below**, base rounded or **narrowed to a short leaf stalk**. Both sides **dotted with glands**, aromatic-spicy smell when crushed. **FLOWERS:** **Green-white** with 4 tiny petals, in **loose terminal heads** 2-6 cm long. **FRUIT:** **Pea-sized or oval 4-7 mm, red-purple-black** with thin fleshy skin, within the **enlarged green calyx cup**.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings.

Seed: No. of seeds per kg: 700-1,000.

treatment: Nicking the seed at the cotyledon end may enhance germination.

storage: Store seeds in air-tight containers in a cool place.

Management:

Remarks: The leaves of this tree are aromatic like those of lemon. Smoke of the wood can cure foot rot in animals.

