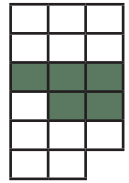


# *Prunus africana*

(*Pygeum africanum*)

Rosaceae



## Indigenous

**Am:** *Tikur inchet*

**Eng:** *Red stinkwood*

**Gm:** *Beru*

**Hd:** *Arara*

**Or:** *Bourairo, Buraya, Homi, Mukoraja*

**Sd:** *Mrchiko*

**Wt:** *Garba, Onsa*

## Ecology

A useful timber tree widespread from West to South Africa, usually in high-rainfall areas, but it is becoming rare in some places due to over-exploitation. In Ethiopia it grows in montane and riverine forests of Harerge (especially Dindin Forest), Ilubabor, Kefa, Arsi, Bale, Wolega, Sidamo, Gonder, Gojam and Shoa. Usually it occurs in high-rainfall areas in Moist and Wet Weyna Dega and Dega agroclimatic zones, 1,700-2,500 m.

## Uses

Firewood, charcoal, timber (construction), poles, utensils (mortars), medicine (bark, leaf), bee forage, shade, mulch, windbreak.

## Description

An evergreen tree to 40 m. In forests, the high foliage is open, the branches often pendulous, but in grassland the tree is more rounded and compact. **BARK:** Rough, dark, scaling irregularly, branches corky, branchlets dotted with breathing pores. **LEAVES:** Leathery, glossy dark green above, oval to 10 cm, margin with shallow rounded teeth, leaf stalk typically pink, to 2 cm. Crushed leaves have a bitter almond

smell. **FLOWERS:** Sprays on stalks about 8 cm long, very small, fragrant, green-white. **FRUIT:** Rounded about 1 cm, dark red, often bilobed, containing one seed.

## Propagation

Seedlings, wildings.

## Seed

3,400–6,000 seed per kg.

**Treatment:** The fleshy parts should be removed from the seed.

**Storage:** Seed does not store well therefore fresh seed should be used.

## Management

Fairly slow growing. It is high potential industrial species that can be managed commercially.

## Remarks

The heartwood darkens to a dense red. The tree bark is an important source of raw material for the pharmaceutical industry. It occurs abundantly in Ethiopia in areas such as Dimdir Arbagugu and the Omo-Gibe river basin.

