

Psiadia punctulata

Compositae

Indigenous

Sh: Allaki

Tg: Allakhit

Tr: Tsehaiferhet

Ecology: A woody herb widespread in African grassland, evergreen bushland and at forest edges. In Eritrea, it is common throughout the highlands and midlands, e.g. around Quahaito and Rora-habab and on Mt. Bizen, often in association with *Dodonaea angustifolia* and *Acacia etbaica*, 1,000-2,500 m.

Uses: Firewood, **medicine**, soil conservation, **roofing material**, smoke bath, ceremonial.

Description: A much-branched shrubby herb to 2 m or more. **LEAVES: Young leaves shiny and sticky with a gum-like secretion.** Older leaves alternate, smooth, **long and narrow, 3-14 cm, tip long pointed, base extending along the leaf stalk.** The edge may be wavy and have some small teeth. **FLOWERS:** Small, **bright yellow** in many-flowered heads, stalks 2-7 cm long. **FRUIT:** Tiny with little rough hairs, dispersed by wind.

Propagation: Wildings, direct sowing at site.

Seed:

treatment: Not necessary.

storage: Can be stored for a year at room temperature.

Management: Fast growing.

Remarks: The branches of this species are collected and tied together with string to light for the *Meskel* celebration—usually called *Hoye-hoye*.

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