

Rhamnus staddo

Rhamnaceae

Indigenous

Sh: Kistani-schahala

Tg: Tsedo

Tr: Tumera

Ecology: A plant of evergreen bushland that grows in rocky places and valleys in semi-humid and humid highland woodlands from Ethiopia, East Africa, Zaire and south to Zimbabwe. In Eritrea, it occurs on the eastern escarpment as well as in the northern and central highlands, e.g. around Gheremi, Maaldi, Nefasit, Mai-habar, Rora-habab and on Mt. Bizen, 1,500-2,300 m.

Uses: **Firewood, flavouring** (leaves), smoke bath.

Description: A small bushy rigidly branched shrub or small tree growing to 5 m. **BARK:** Grey-brown, smooth. **LEAVES:** **Small**, narrow and oblong, to 5.5 cm long, **clustered** on short side branches which may be spine-tipped. The **leaf tip is pointed, rounded** or notched, the edge with small rounded teeth. **FLOWERS:** Small green-yellow, only 2-4 together, **4 petals**, almond scented. **FRUIT:** **Red to purple berries**, only 5 mm across.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings.

Seed:

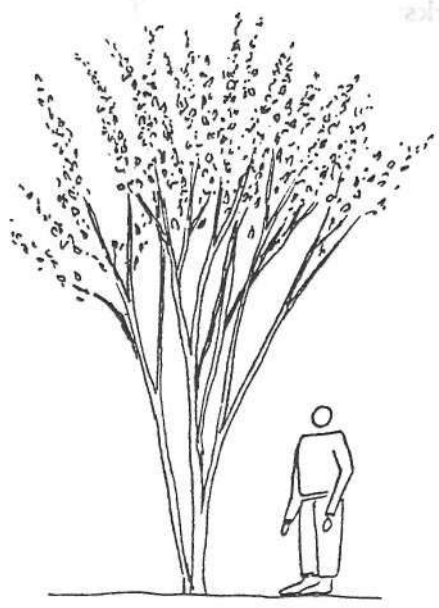
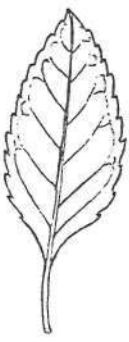
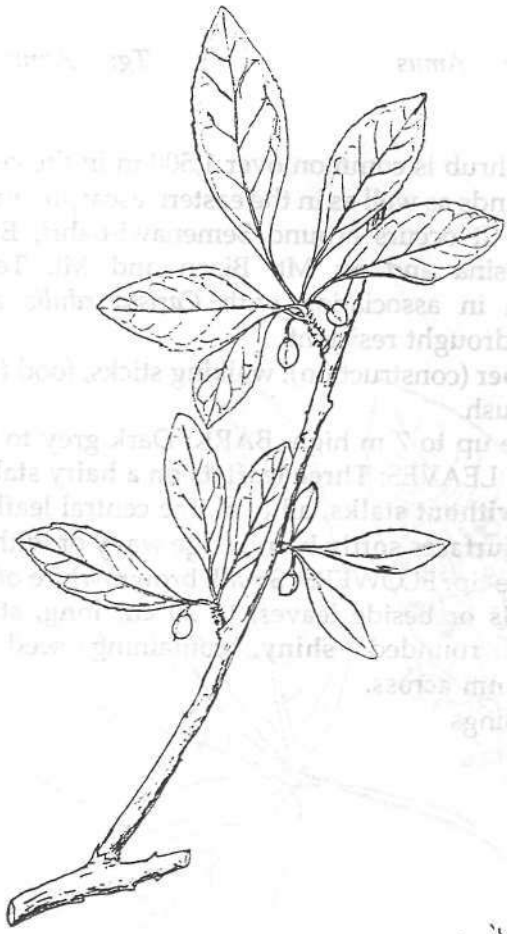
treatment: Not necessary.

storage: Stores well in air-tight containers.

Management: Coppicing.

Remarks: The species tolerates repeated coppicing. It is used in the same way as *R. prinoides* for brewing, but less commonly.

Indigo
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DANTEW T.