

Indigenous

Bl: Mechecho

Sh: Atami

Tg: Teteale

Tr: Shamut-ketan

Ecology: Found also in the Sudan, Somalia and Arabia, this shrub occurs in evergreen bushland on dry and rocky slopes on the eastern and western escarpments and the northern highlands of Eritrea, 1,600-2,000 m. It is common around Semenawi-bahri and Debubawi-bahri as well as in the Rora-mensa area.

Uses: **Firewood, farm tools, walking sticks,** bee forage, local beds (leaves).

Description: A thin shrub or small tree 2-6 m, the slender red-brown twigs hanging down. **Young shoots shiny.** LEAVES: **Long,** thin and pointed, usually pendent, **over 4 times longer than broad,** to **20 cm, widest below the centre, edge finely curly,** shiny green above, paler below, oily and **sticking together if pressed,** usually **remaining green as they dry.** FLOWERS: Small, male and female, in loose branched heads, **stalks hairless.** FRUIT: Round or bean-shaped, **less than 5 mm,** shiny pale brown, slightly pink, soon falling.

Propagation: Seedlings.

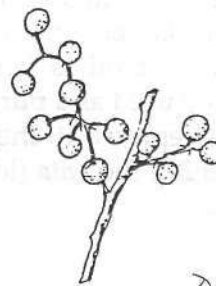
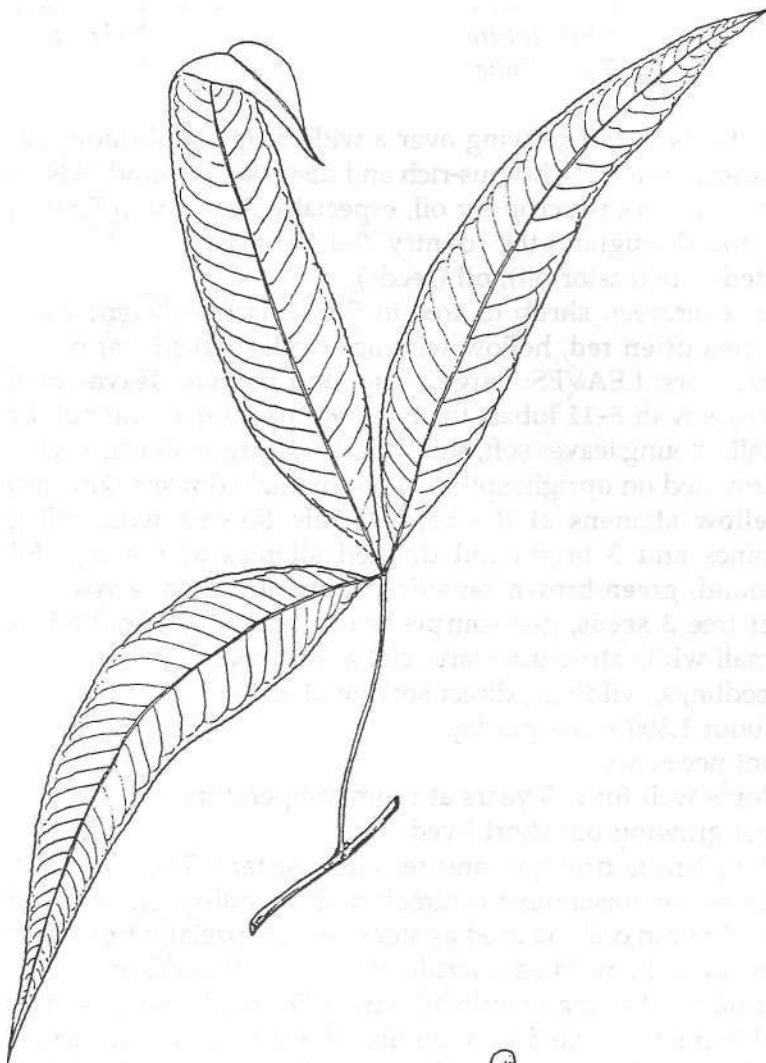
treatment:

storage:

Stores well in air-tight containers.

Management:

Remarks: The leaves stick together if they are piled on top of each other and pressed down, a feature that can help identification of this species.



DAMTEW T.