

# Rosa abyssinica

*Rosaceae*

Indigenous

Eng: *Abyssinian rose*

Sh: *Gaga*

Tg: *Kolodashim*

Tr: *Koloshem*

- Ecology:** Found only in Arabia, Ethiopia, Somalia and the Sudan, this rose is common in upland dry evergreen forests and margins or clearings of forests, in bushland and dry grasslands. It is also found near houses and on river banks, 1,700-3,300 m. In Eritrea, it is common in the central and northern highlands, e.g. around Rora-habab, Mensura, Akrur and Gheremi.
- Uses:** **Food** (fruit), **medicine** (fruit against hookworm), live fence, ornamental.
- Description:** A prickly evergreen shrub, creeper or climber, or a small tree to 7 m. Few prickles on the stem, slightly curved from a wide base and **all similar**. Variable in many features. **LEAVES:** Compound, leathery, 3 pairs leaflets plus one at the tip, each narrowly ovate 1-6 cm, tip sharp, edge toothed, on a short stalk which is winged by the leafy stipules. **FLOWERS:** **Fragrant white-pale yellow**, usually 3-20 in dense heads, each stalked, the **sepals long, narrow and hairy, soon fall**, 5 petals about **2 cm long, tip rounded to square**, many stamens. **FRUIT:** Green at first, ripen to **orange-red, about 2 cm** long, fleshy and edible, seeds within.
- Propagation:** Seedlings, cuttings, wildings.
- treatment:** Not necessary.
- storage:** Stores well in air-tight containers.
- Management:** Coppicing.
- Remarks:** The edible fruits are collected and eaten by children.

