

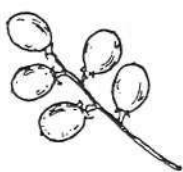
## Indigenous

<i>Af:</i>	<i>Adaito</i>	<i>At:</i>	<i>Arak</i>	<i>Bl:</i>	<i>Adaya</i>
<i>Eng:</i>	<i>Toothbrush tree</i>	<i>Hd:</i>	<i>Wihib</i>	<i>Km:</i>	<i>Egla</i>
<i>Nr:</i>	<i>Loo</i>	<i>Sh:</i>	<i>Adaito</i>	<i>Tg:</i>	<i>Adai</i>
<i>Tr:</i>	<i>Adai</i>				

- Ecology:** Widespread all over arid Africa and the driest parts of India. Occurs in thorn scrub, on desert flood plains and in grassy savannah, even on alkaline soils. It is very drought-resistant and is an important indicator of saline soils, even though it prefers sandy-clay soils in water courses. In Eritrea, it grows in the western and eastern lowlands, including the Dahlak Islands. It is common in Hidai valley, around Adobha, Hagaz, Daerotai, Shambuko, Tesenei, Hashishai, Dogali, Ailet and Edi, 0-1,500 m.
- Uses:** Firewood, food (fruit), **medicine** (roots), **fodder** (fruit, leaves), soil conservation, river-bank stabilization, shade, **toothbrushes**.
- Description:** An evergreen trailing shrub or small tree, 3-7 m, young **flexible branches, hanging down**, older wood twisted. BARK: Smooth and pale, later brown and corky. LEAVES: **Yellow-green, dull, rather fleshy** but hard with rough gland dots and raised veins, **oblong to rounded to 5 cm**. FLOWERS: In loose heads, to 10 cm, small, white. FRUIT: **White, then pink to purple, 1 cm**, one seeded, juicy and strongly flavoured, sweet but peppery.
- Propagation:** Seedlings (sow seed in pots), root suckers, wildings.
- Seed:** No. of seeds per kg: 31,000-37,000.
- treatment:** Not necessary.
- storage:** Seed can be stored for about a month.
- Management:** Slow growing.
- Remarks:** A very important fodder species for dry areas when nothing else is available as the shoots can be browsed all year by cattle, sheep, goats and camels—but milk may be flavoured. A kitchen salt can be produced from the ash of the wood and leaves. The fruit are attractive to monkeys and birds. The bark contains an antibiotic which keeps the mouth clean and helps to prevent tooth decay.



flowers



fruit

