

Indigenous

Eng: *Carrot tree*

Tg: *Ander guhila*

Tr: *Motet, Hisas-atal*

**Ecology:** A small savannah tree widespread from Eritrea, Ethiopia and East Africa south to South Africa, occurring over a wide range of altitudes, especially in low-altitude woodland or on rocky outcrops. In Eritrea, it grows on the eastern and western escarpments, e.g. around Adi-quala, Ala plains, Durfo, Mrara, Mehlab and Nakfa, 1,300-2,100 m.

**Uses:** **Firewood, farm tools**, medicine (roots).

**Description:** A small deciduous shrub or tree, 2-7 m. **BARK:** Yellow-grey-green, rather **waxy, peeling in papery strips** or rectangles, later grey-brown, thick and corky, horizontally grooved. **LEAVES:** Crowded towards the ends of the few branches, compound, **2-3 pairs leaflets plus one**, spaced on a stalk to 10 cm, the base **expanded around the stem**. Each leaflet ovate, to 5 cm, sometimes stalked, the edge clearly toothed, each **tooth bearing a fine hairy point**. **FLOWERS:** Small, green-white, in rounded compound clusters at the end of stout twigs, quite showy as they appear before the leaves; 3-7 long stalks arise together and each bears a crown of small heads (umbels) about 8 cm across. Individual flowers on stalks 5 mm long may be male only, the stamens longer than the 5 petals. **FRUIT:** In large untidy clusters, cream-brown and **papery**, each fruit **flat and heart-shaped to 12 mm, winged each side** with 3 ribs. Fruit dry on the tree splitting to release seed.

**Propagation:** Cuttings.

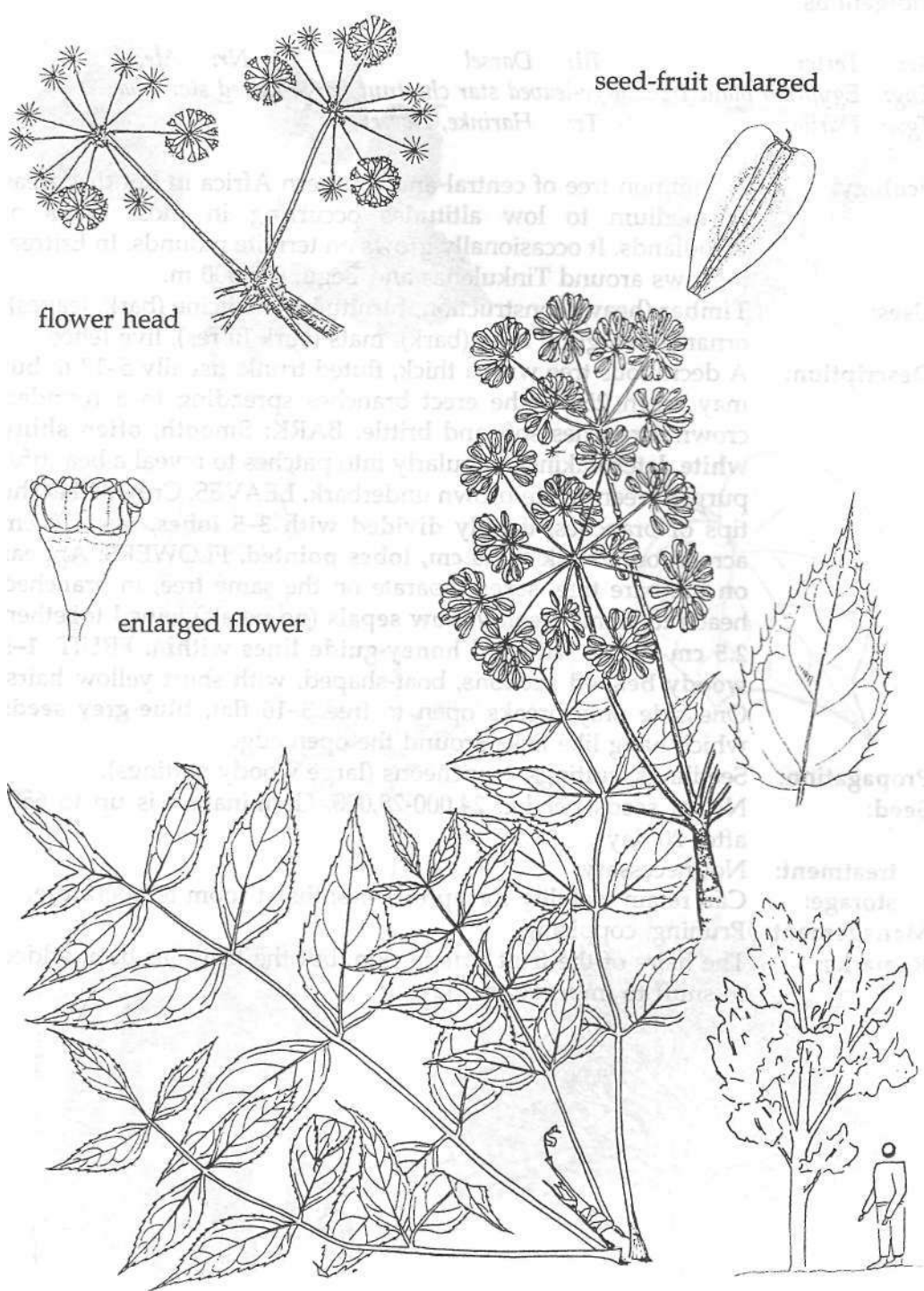
**Seed:**

**treatment:**

**storage:**

**Management:**

**Remarks:** The wood is soft and brittle. Stems are hollow. An infusion of this plant is strongly emetic.



flower head

seed-fruit enlarged

enlarged flower