

Indigenous

Ar: Terter

Bl: Darsel

Nr: Alebo

Tg: Darile

Tr: Darsel, Harinke

**Ecology:** This tree prefers rocky ground of escarpments or cliffs in semi-arid lowland scrub savannah, 500-1,800 m. It is frequent in the Sahel region of west Africa extending eastwards to the Sudan, Eritrea, eastern Africa and south to Angola. In Eritrea it grows in the Mutsab, Hidai and Chewet valleys, around Solomuna and Digdigta and on Mt. Boroka.

**Uses:** Food (fruit), medicine (bark and leaves), fodder, gum, **fibre** (bark used for mats and ropes).

**Description:** A deciduous tree to 16 m high, the base of the trunk thick and with small, sharp buttresses; crown dense and rounded. **BARK: Grey-purple, flaking in oblong scales to expose patches of shiny yellow bark** below. When cut the edge is red and a **white gum and watery sap exude**. **LEAVES:** Alternate, palmate with **3-5 lobes, lobes pointed, base rounded to an 8-cm stalk, both sides furry, covered with tiny star-shaped hairs**. **FLOWERS:** Dull red-yellow-green in terminal groups, no petals, the **5-part calyx cup-shaped, hairy outside**. **FRUIT:** Green becoming grey-brown, covered with furry hairs, with **3-5 boat-shaped sections**, each 7-10 cm long. Sections split making a star and each section contains about **12 small grey seeds with a soft yellow aril**.

**Propagation:** Seedlings, cuttings, truncheons.

**Seeds:** No. of seeds per kg: 2,500-3,500.

**treatment:** Not needed.

**storage:** Can only retain viability for a short period.

**Management:**

**Remarks:** The wood is soft, white and perishable, but it exudes a water-soluble gum which has potential export value.

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