

Indigenous

Af: *Hudumto*

Ar: *Alhamet*

Eng: *Saltbush*

Sh: *Hurum*

Tg: *Hichum*

Tr: *Hichum*

Ecology: The saltbush is one of the mangrove species that is able to resist frequent flooding. It occurs from Mozambique to eastern Africa and into Egypt, the Middle East and India growing on the landward side of mangroves, inland on edges of salt-pans, swamps, rivers and on generally saline soils, often in pure stands. In Eritrea, it is found along the Red Sea coast and on the shores of the Dahlak Islands.

Uses: **Fodder** (for camels), fencing (dry branches), **soil conservation**, sand-dune fixation, roofing material, windbreak.

Description: A much-branched succulent shrub 1-4 m. **BARK:** Grey, smooth. **LEAVES:** **Grey-green, alternate and fleshy to 4 cm long**, narrow, flat or cylindrical, narrowing to the base. Upper leaves (bracts) shorter. **FLOWERS:** **Green, tiny in regular clusters beside leaves** forming a spike at the tips of shoots. No petals but 5 sepals. **FRUIT:** A single **shiny black seed covered with a membranous red-purple skin**, about 1 mm. Dense clusters.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings, root suckers.

Seed:

treatment:

storage:

Management: Coppicing.

Remarks: The saltbush has a characteristic smell, well known where it is dominant.

