

Indigenous

*Sh: Ebokh*

*Tg: Ebokh Tr: Sarakan*

**Ecology:** A bushy tree widespread in Africa having a great range of altitude, found from coastal dunes to semi-desert to the edges of mountain forests. In Eritrea, it is common in evergreen or semi-deciduous bushland and bushed grassland, especially on stony soils. It occurs widely over the highlands, e.g. around Wogret, Rora-habab, Halhal, Seharti, Adi-keih and Quatit, 1,800-3,000 m.

**Uses:** **Firewood, fodder** (leaves), hut construction (stems and branches), soil conservation, windbreak.

**Description:** An aromatic shrub or small tree 1-9 m, the whole tree silver-grey in appearance; all parts smelling strongly of camphor. **BARK:** Brown-grey, longitudinally fissured, peeling in long strips. **LEAVES:** **Alternate**, leathery, grey-green above, **felty pale grey-white-silver below, strongly scented when crushed**, narrow oblong, usually 5-10 cm, base narrowed to a short stalk, edge sometimes toothed when young. **FLOWERS:** **Florets tiny, tubular**, cream-white or pale yellow, 4-5 mm, grouped into 3-5 flower heads, 1 cm across. They are **massed in branched pyramidal clusters 5-20 cm, all covered with white woolly hairs**. **FRUIT:** Tiny nutlets covered with white woolly hairs, the heads resembling balls of cotton wool, about 12 x 9 cm.

**Propagation:** Seedlings, cuttings, wildings.

**Seed:**  
**treatment:** Not necessary.  
**storage:**

**Management:** Grows fairly fast and coppices well.

**Remarks:** Tends to be invasive in overgrazed areas. The wood will burn even when it is green. The heavy, hard timber has been used elsewhere to make furniture, etc.

