

Indigenous

Af: Weibaito

Ar: Darot

Bl: Enkema

Hd: Todfaf

Km: Dura

Nr: Tibila

Sh: Weibo

Tg: Weiba

Tr: Tsehat

Ecology: One of a very useful group of trees growing in semi-arid areas from Nigeria, the Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia to eastern Zaire. It is found in woodland, bushed grassland and riverine forest and does best in well-drained soils. The commonest and most widespread Terminalia in Eritrea, it occurs throughout the country between 200 and 2,000 m, for example around Filfil, Solomuna, Debremaar, Dongolo, Boroka, Barentu, Quatit, Maiquak, Elabered, Mensa, Seber, in Hidai valley, Ala and Tobo.

Uses: **Firewood, charcoal**, timber (tool handles, mortars, pestles), poles, posts, **medicine** (leaves and bark), **fodder** (leafy branches), mulch, soil improvement, shade, dye, smoke bath, stuffing (local pillows).

Description: A semi-deciduous tree, 7-13 m, densely shady, **somewhat layered**, foliage drooping. **BARK:** Grey, fissured, young shoots hairy. **LEAVES:** Oval, **7-10** cm, wider at the tip, pointed or notched, edge wavy, side veins clear, **leaf stalk and underleaf hairy**, leaves turn red before falling. **FLOWERS:** **Whitish, with an unpleasant smell, in spikes to 12 cm.** **FRUIT:** A winged oval seed, **red to purple, 5 cm, tip rounded or notched**, narrowed to base.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings.

Seed: A prolific seeder, but with a low germination rate. The tree seeds more or less continuously. No. of seeds per kg: $\pm 3,000$.

treatment: Remove wings.

storage: Seed can be stored for very long periods if insect free.

Management: Fairly fast growing on good sites. Lopping, pollarding, coppicing.

Remarks: Terminalia timber is yellow-brown, medium hard, light and termite-resistant and thus highly valued for house construction, poles, utensils and for building grain stores. In spite of its dense canopy, crops do well underneath.

