

Indigenous

An Abu khamira Bl: Terengi
 Eng: Hog plum, Wildplum Hd: Ex hassab Tg: Mullo
 Tn Melhitta

Ecology: A pan-tropical tree species growing in African savannah, America and tropical Asia. In Eritrea it is found between 1,300 and 1,900 m in Acacia woodland and wooded grassland often together with *Acacia abyssinica*, *A. etbaica* and *Terminalia brownii*. It occurs around Mensa, Bogos, Semenawi-bahri, Debubawi-bahri, Quatit, Mt. Seled, Dembelas and western Rora-habab.

Uses: **Firewood**, charcoal, timber (**utensils**), **food** (seed), oil (seed), medicine (roots, bark, leaves), fodder, bee forage, **live fence**.

Description: Usually a spiny shrub or small tree, 4-8 m. **BARK:** Brown-black; twigs bear small scales, spines, **1 cm, thin and straight**. **LEAVES:** Alternate, **simple or tufts**, oblong, up to 7 x 3 cm, blue-grey-green, **folding upwards** along midrib, **tip round or notched**. **FLOWERS:** Very fragrant, small green-white (white hairs in throat) in small branched clusters. **FRUIT:** Oval to 2.5 cm, **thin skin red, yellow to orange pulp**, sour but refreshing, around 1 large seed containing oil.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings.

Seed: No. of seeds per kg: 660-1,400.

treatment: Maceration to separate seed from pulp.

storage: Seed cannot be stored for long periods. Sow fresh seed for good germination.

Management: Protect natural regeneration.

Remarks: A useful tree for arid and semi-arid areas as it is drought resistant. The wood is heavy, hard and very durable. The seed contains a non-drying oil suitable for soap and lubrication. It has also been used as body and hair oil and for softening leather.



enlarged flower

