

Ziziphus abyssinica

Rhamnaceae

Indigenous

Tg: *Gaba-agdi*

Tr: *Kuslet*

Ecology: A common African tree of medium to low altitudes from Senegal to Ethiopia and Eritrea to South Africa. It is found in Combretum-Terminalia and Acacia woodland, wooded grassland and bushland, 450-2,000 m. In Eritrea, it is common around Ailagundet, Rora-habab, Nefasit and Kenafena, 1,300-1,900 m.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber (tool handles), posts, **food** (fruit), medicine (roots, leaves), fodder (leaves, fruit), bee forage, **live** fence.

Description: A spiny tree or shrub 3-6 m, **crown rounded**. BARK: Grey-brown, deeply grooved, thorns may be single or paired, one recurved, the other one sharp and straight to 2 cm. LEAVES: Leathery, broadly oval to 8 cm, **the leaf base unequal**, shiny green above, hairy yellow-grey **below, veins distinctive**, edge finely toothed, shortly stalked and hairy. FLOWERS: Small, greenish yellow, star-shaped in axillary heads to 2 cm long. FRUIT: **Rounded** to 3 cm, shiny **red-brown** and edible when ripe, 1-2 seeds inside the stone.

Propagation: Seedlings, direct sowing at site, root suckers, cuttings.

Seed: Germination rate often low. No. of seeds per kg: 430-2,000.

treatment: Soak in cold water for 24 hours before sowing or crack seed coat.

storage: Can be stored up to a year.

Management: Lopping, pollarding, pruning, coppicing.

Remarks:

