

Indigenous

*Bl: Duwa**Tg: Cheare**Tr: Dewet*

**Ecology:** A large tree widespread in Africa with several varieties, usually found in deciduous woodlands, wooded grasslands and along margins of rivers. In Eritrea, it is found along Anseba river banks at Tsebab and Adi-berbere as well as along upper Mereb River (at Tsorona), 500-2,200 m.

**Uses:** **Firewood**, charcoal, **timber** (local construction, pestles and mortars), tool handles, farm tools, **fodder** (leaves, fruit), **fences** (cut branches), gum.

**Description:** A tree up to 18 m, sometimes with a wide bole, the **crown a shady spreading umbrella**. **BARK:** Grey-brown, rough or **papery**; **younger branches yellow-brown, flaking** or densely covered with pale hairs. **THORNS:** **Grey-white, straight to 9 cm**, sometimes absent on parts of the tree. **LEAVES:** Hairy or not, 8-35 pairs pinnae on a stalk to 13 cm, **leaflets tiny**. **FLOWERS:** **Cream-white in round heads**, about 1 cm across, fragrant, hairy or not. **FRUIT:** **Large and woody, to 21 x 3 cm**, slightly curved. The shiny brown pods dry out and break open on the ground to set free hard flat seeds about 1 cm long.

**Propagation:** Seedlings.

**Seed:** No. of seeds per kg: 3,250.

**treatment:**

**storage:** Can be stored in air-tight containers at room temperature.

**Management:** Lopping, pollarding, coppicing.

**Remarks:** The wood is liable to borer attack but is used to make farm tools, pestles and mortars. The gum is clear and of a good quality. The foliage and fruit are good fodder.

