

Indigenous

Tg: *Jakara*

Tr: *Esit wulad*

Ecology: Widespread in north tropical Africa from Nigeria to Somalia in dry bushland, on rocky and stony ground in tall grass savannah. In Eritrea, it grows in the escarpments, particularly in the mid and lower hillsides, 700-1,900 m. Common around Adobha, Wadi-labka, Mt. Enjahat, Begu, Kuruh, Gheleb and in Felket valley. Often associated with *Acacia mellifera* and *A. tortilis*.

Uses: Soil conservation.

Description: A woody climber up to 4 m with the **main stem or rootstock swollen, conical to bottle-shaped** up to 2 m high. LEAVES: Grey-white below, with **3-5 shallow or deep lobes, tips rounded**, 5-veined from the rounded base which has dark grey **gland dots** at the tip of the 5-8 cm long stalk, even on the blade. **Simple tendrils beside leaves, 5-12 cm, curl at the tips.** FLOWERS: **Cream, on short stalks**, male and female separate, parts often hidden within the **5 narrow sepals** of the calyx. Male flowers to 5 cm. Female flowers much shorter with 5 yellow-green petals. 1-2 flowers ripen into fruit. FRUIT: A **long, tough capsule 3-8 cm with clear veins**, splitting to set free many seed.

Propagation: Cuttings

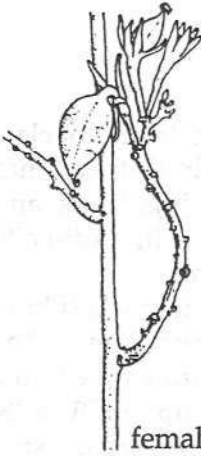
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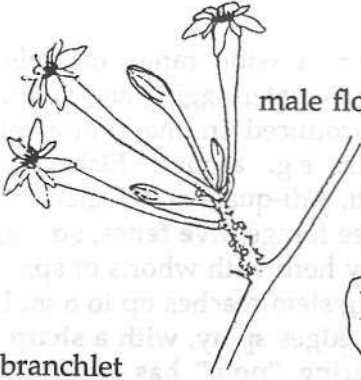
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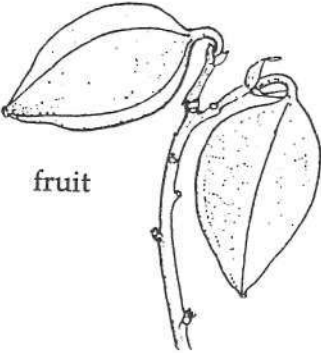
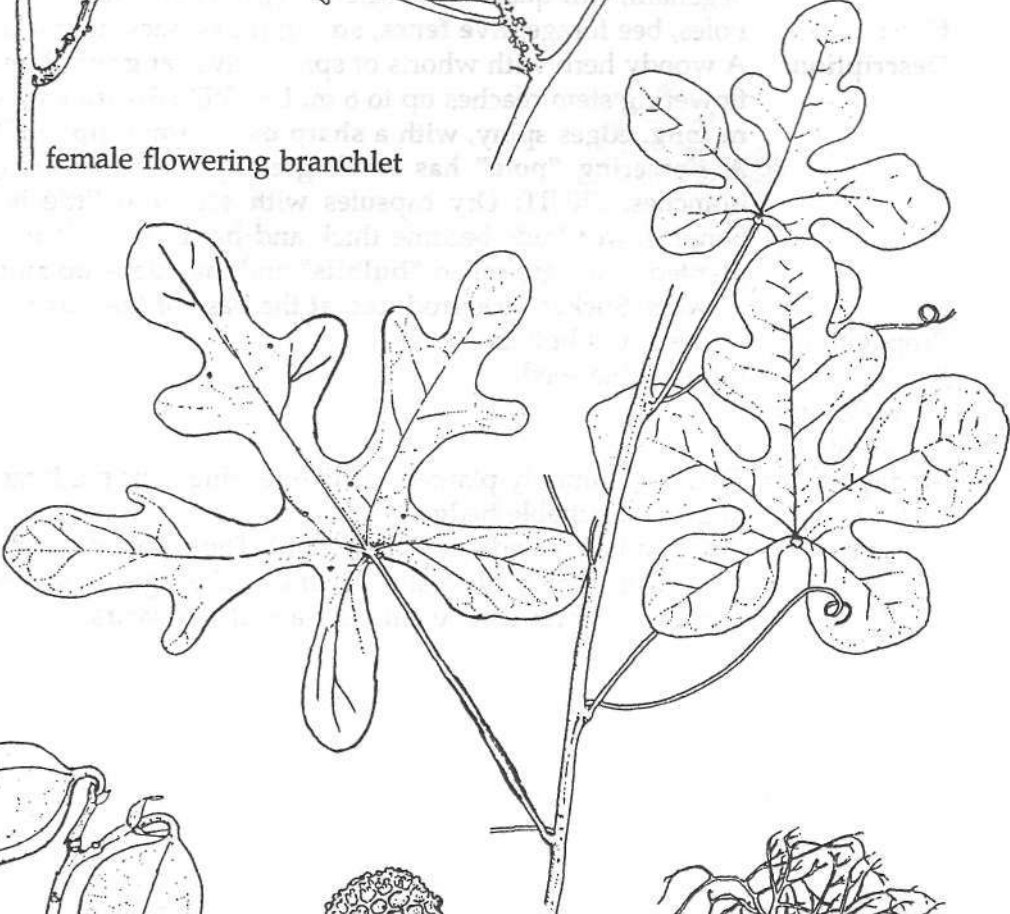
Remarks: This plant is said to be very poisonous. Even touching it may be dangerous as the dust from the young shoots may come in contact with the saliva later on. In Somalia it is planted for medicinal purposes.



female flowering branchlet



male flowering branchlet



fruit



enlarged seed

