

Indigenous

Ar: *Sabbar*
Tg: *Sanda-ere*

Bl: *Chebir*
Tr: *Tsebir*

Sh: *Ura*

Ecology: In Eritrea, this stout herb is common throughout the eastern and western escarpments and in the highlands, 1,000-2,700 m. It grows on any soil, but often on sandy soils or rocky sites.

Uses: **Medicine** (juice from the leaves), **bee forage**, soil conservation.

Description: A stout herb with tall stems to 1 m high from a **basal leaf rosette**. LEAVES: About 16-20 spiny leaves grow from the base, each **one 20-60 cm long** and **3-11 cm wide at the base**. They are succulent and green with **many pale spots**; the numerous marginal teeth are brown-tipped. FLOWERS: The big flower stalk to 1.25 m has several branches, 4-22 cm long. The tubular flowers, 19-30 mm have a **distinct swelling at the base** and are **bright red, but free edges paler**. FRUIT: Dry, brown capsules, more or less **cylindrical, 2-4 cm, break open** to release small seeds.

Propagation: Root suckers, seedlings.

Seeds:

treatment:

storage:

Management:

Remarks: The subspecies *macrocarpa* has leaves to 35 cm and the flower head to 1 m. The leaf margin has many small teeth and the capsule is only 25-31 mm long. Plants growing at high altitudes are generally smaller.

