

Indigenous

Sh: *Egrabu*

Tg: *Oba*

Tr: *Meret*

**Ecology:** A tree which occurs in Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia, Kenya, Ethiopia and Eritrea. In Eritrea, it grows in the central and northern highlands, e.g. around Nefasit, Nakfa, Shindewa and Rora-mensa, 1,300-2,100 m. It is drought resistant.

**Uses:** Firewood, **poles** (building), medicine (young leaves, bark), **fodder** (leaves), **shade**, ornamental.

**Description:** A small-to-medium **deciduous tree** to 15 m; crown rounded but flattened, branches drooping. **BARK:** Grey or dark grey, rough, grooved, flaking. **LEAVES:** **Long and narrow** to 15 cm by 3 cm, dull green, hair-tipped, base narrowed to a short stalk. **FLOWERS:** Small, **in dense heads** to 7 cm long, usually beside the leaves; no petals but 4 small green sepals and less than 16 yellow-green stamens. **FRUIT:** Round, to **2 cm across, smooth and yellow** when ripe.

**Propagation:** Seedlings.

**Seed:** No. of seeds per kg: 4,000-5,000. Germination is good and fast.

**treatment:** No treatment required.

**storage:** Seeds are perishable so they should be sown soon after harvesting.

**Management:** A fairly fast-growing tree.

**Remarks:** Suitable for planting in avenues and for shade. Fruits much favoured by birds and the fodder by goats. Young leaves are used to treat both tooth and stomach-ache.

