

Buddleja polystachya

Loganiaceae

Indigenous

Sh: Adahur

Tg: Metere Tr: Sebute, Sabunet

Ecology: A plant distributed from Uganda and Tanzania north into Somalia and Ethiopia and also occurring in Yemen and Saudi Arabia. It grows in upland grassland, the margins and clearings of upland rain forest and often in secondary scrub. In Eritrea, it grows between 1,300-2,500 m all over the country, being particularly common on the eastern and western escarpments.

Uses: **Firewood, charcoal,** timber (local house construction), medicine (leaves used for treating burns), fodder (leaves), bee forage, ornamental, detergent for washing brewing pots (leaves), **live fence.**

Description: A much-branched shrub or small tree, crown rounded with arching branches, usually 4r-5 m, occasionally to 12 m. BARK: Red-brown or grey, short bole deeply grooved. LEAVES: **Long and narrow to 15 cm, tip pointed,** light grey-green above, surface rough, **underside and** stems with **dense white-brown hairs,** on a 1-cm stalk. FLOWERS: Bright orange **on a long spike to 20 cm,** tubular, in small groups with a sharp and rather unpleasant smell. FRUIT: Small dry capsules, open at the tip.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings, and cuttings. Seeds germinate well and seedlings are easily raised.

Seed:
treatment:
storage: No treatment required.

Management: Lopping, coppicing, and pollarding.

Remarks: The dry wood can be used to start fires by rubbing sticks together and it is a popular fuel. An attractive ornamental which flowers almost all the year round. Bees collect both pollen and nectar from it. The plant has been used as a medicine for tonsillitis. A small-leaved form, var. *parvifolia*, occurs in Eritrea.

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