

Combretum fragrans

Combretaceae

(*C. adenogonium*, *C. ghasalense*)

Indigenous

Km: *Gulmema*

Nr: *Shaf*

Sh: *Merhad*

Tg: *Tenkeleba*

Tr: *Hajef, shuf*

Ecology: An African Combretum ranging from West Africa to the Sudan and south to Botswana. It grows in semi-arid lowland savannah and scrub savannah, often on seasonally waterlogged clay or stony soils, 500-1,300 m. In Eritrea, it is common around Ghinda, lower Dongolo, Solomuna, Gash basin, Marat, along the middle Anseba river and around Enda-mariam-aila.

Uses: **Firewood**, timber (construction), food (leaves, fruit), **fodder** (low-quality emergency feed), medicine (leaves, fruit, resin), paint (resin).

Description: A deciduous shrub or tree 3-10 m with a heavy rounded crown. **BARK:** Cream-brown and smooth becoming grey-black, rough, with irregular vertical cracks. Branches red-brown, peeling; branchlets grey and sticky. **LEAVES:** **Opposite and oval, sometimes in threes or even fours, 7-18 cm long**, densely scaly and **sticky below when young. Leaf base often rounded to the short stalk.** **FLOWERS:** Appear before leaves, tiny and fragrant, cream—yellow-green, along well-branched **hairy spikes beside leaves, to 7 cm.** **FRUIT:** Rounded, **yellow-brown and 4-winged, about 3 cm long with a 3-mm "peg" at the tip.** Young fruit red and sticky.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings.

Seed: Around 10,000 seeds per kg.

treatment: Remove the wings mechanically.

storage: Should not be stored for any longer period.

Management: Slow growing, lopping, coppicing.

Remarks: In some countries the bark has been used to poison fish.

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