

Boscia angustifolia

Capparidaceae

Indigenous

Ar: *Shajeret Almarfin*

Bl: *Sensa*

Hd: *Kamey*

Km: *Juna*

Nr: *Kamb*

Sh: *Kermedo*

Tg: *Kermed*

Tr: *Tsai*

Ecology: A common African tree of very dry types of woodland from the Atlantic Ocean to the Red Sea and east, central to southern Africa. It grows predominantly on very dry sites, on hills and in gravel and laterite soils. In Eritrea, it grows on dry sites and hills throughout the country, e.g. around Mai-seraw, Dekemhare, Ala plains, Ghinda, Solomuna, Adobha, Hidai, Adi-berebere, Mehlab, upper Barka, Barentu, Tokombia, Goluj and Molki, 700-2,000 m.

Uses: **Timber** (construction, furniture), carvings (crosses, afro-combs), fodder (leaves, shoots, bark), veterinary medicine, farm implements (yokes).

Description: An evergreen shrub or tree to 8 m with a **massive trunk** and strongly ascending branches. **BARK:** **Silver-grey, often deeply fluted and with horizontal scars**, becoming grey-black, scaly, knobby. Young branches have fine hairs on raised edges. **LEAVES:** **Stiff, leathery, grey-green, 2-7 cm**, veins clear on both sides, alternate along new stems but in **groups of 2-4 on short shoots of older stems**, paler below and densely hairy, **tipped with a short hard spine**. **FLOWERS:** Very small and **fragrant in crowded heads to 6 cm at the end of branchlets**, no petals but up to 8 **green-cream-yellow stamens** in each flower. **FRUIT:** **Rounded, about 1 cm across, red-purple** and pitted, on a stalk, the **thin shell** breaking to reveal up to 7 seeds in a **sticky, edible pulp**.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings.

Seed:

treatment:

storage:

Management:

Remarks: The yellow-white wood smells bad when freshly cut but is fairly heavy and hard and saws and works well. The leaves, bark and roots are said to be a treatment for donkeys with fever.

