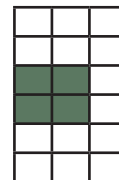


Berberis holstii

Berberidaceae



Indigenous

Ag: *Zinkila*

Am: *Gewo, Yeset af, Zinkila*

Ecology

A shrub that grows on the edges and clearings of Juniperus-Hagenia-Olea forest; very rare in Ethiopia except at a few places in Dry and Moist Weyna Dega and Dega agroclimatic zones of Shoa (Wof Washa forest and Menz), Tigray and Welo, 2,300–32000 m.

Uses

Firewood, hedges and very good for construction of rodent repellent terraces.

Description

A high-altitude shrub, spiny and evergreen, usually 2 m. Young branches red to brown. BARK: Red-brown becoming dark grey. LEAVES: Leathery and stiff, 2–3 cm long, widest at the prickly tip, edge spiny and toothed. Sharp spines with 3–5 parts grow below the leaf clusters at nodes. FLOWERS: Yellow, in stalked clusters, sensitive stamens which move upwards and inwards when touched. FRUIT: Dark purple, long oval with 1–4 seeds inside.

Propagation

Seedlings, direct sowing at site.

Seed

Treatment: No special treatment needed.

Storage: Can store well in dried condition for as long as 6 months.

Management

Trimming as a hedge or letting it grow for cutting the branches to be used later in rodent-repellent terrace construction.

Remarks

