

Dobera glabra

Salvadoraceae



Indigenous

Af: *Garas*

Tg: *Geresa*

Sm: *Garas, Haras*

Ecology

Distributed in north-east Africa, south to Uganda and Kenya and also in India. In Ethiopia, it occurs on rocky hillsides in dry areas and in saline, heavy, or calcareous loam soils. It does well in Dry and Moist Kolla agroclimatic zones in Shoa (Awash), Harerge, Bale and Sidamo, 400–1,300 m.

Uses

Firewood, timber (local use), utensils (containers, mortars, water troughs), food (fruit, seeds), fodder (leaves), shade, tooth brushes (stems), gum.

Description

A much-branched, evergreen shrub or tree to 8 m. **BARK:** Green to dark grey and patchy. **LEAVES:** Opposite, yellow to grey-green, thick, smooth, veins hardly seen, up to 7 cm long, tip usually notched. **FLOWERS:** White, in branched heads. **FRUIT:** Ovoid to 2 cm, with 1–2 flat seeds in soft edible pulp.

Propagation

Direct sowing at site, wildings, seedlings (sow in pots).

Seed

About 1,400 seed per kg. Germination 60—80% from fresh and carefully extracted seed within 40—60 days.

Treatment: Not necessary.

Storage: Seeds do not store well. Use fresh seed.

Management

Slow growing but very hardy once established.

Remarks

The fruits and seeds are a very important food during times of drought. It is sensitive to water logging.



Photo: Patrick Maundu

