## Acacia senegal

## Indigenous

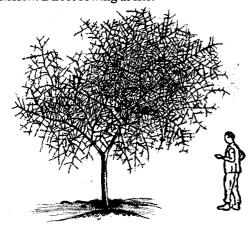
Common names: Bajun: Mtengewa; Boran: Baabido (gum), Burra diima, Iddaado, Sadeema, Sapans; Daasanach: Dang'ite; Digo: Chikwata, Kikwata; English: Gum arabic tree, Gum arabic acacia; Gabra: Idaado; Ilchamus: Lderkesi; Kamba: Kikole, King'olola, King'ola (Mwingi), King'ole (Machakos); Luhya (Bukusu): Kumung'ang'a; Luo: Kiluor, Otiep; Maasai: Enderkesi, Interkes (plural), Olterkesi; Mbeere: Mung'ora; Orma: Bura diima; Pokot: Chemanga, Chemangayan; Rendille: Hadhaadh, Mirgi; Samburu: Lderkesi, Manok (gum); Somali: Adad, Edad; Swahili: Kikwata, Mgunga; Teso: Ekodokodoi, Ekunoit; Tharaka: Mung'oora; Turkana: Ekunoit; Wardei: Cadaad.

DESCRIPTION: Shrub or small tree up to 9 m, more often 2—4 m, usually with many low branches. Flat-topped crown in mature trees. BARK: Waxy, smooth, then peeling and papery from red-brown base. THORNS: Usually in 3s, the central one hooked downwards, the 2 laterals curved up, brown to black. FLOWERS: Buds red, opening to long white or cream spikes, borne in 2s or 3s or sometimes singly, 8 cm long, fragrant, usually develop before the rainy season. FRUIT: Variable pods, flat, oblong to 10 cm, tapering both ends, often constricted between seeds, soft grey-yellow becoming papery brown, veins prominent, splitting to release usually 3–5 greenish brown, flattened seed with a circular outline.

Ecology: A common acacia in dry parts of Africa and Asia. Found from West Africa and North Africa south to South Africa. Widespread in most arid and semi-arid zones of Kenya in dry Acacia-Commiphora bushland, also wooded grassland often found at edges of luggas (dry riverbeds). Very common in the dry northern districts. Often a dominant species on raised rocky ground in very dry areas, 0–1,900 m. Prefers well-aerated soils, especially rocky, loam or sandy soils. Rainfall: 200–800 mm. Agroclimatic Zones III–VII. Flowers in July (Kitui); fruits in August–September (Turkana, Baringo, Ngong); flowers in March–May and seeds in October–November in Bungoma.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, poles, posts, tools, handles, edible gum, medicine (roots), fodder (pods and leaves for camels and goats), bee forage, soil conservation, sand stabilization, fibre, commercial 'gum arabic' (food stabilizer, glue, pharmaceutical uses), veterinary medicine.

PROPAGATION: Direct sowing at site.



## Fabaceae (Mimosaceae)

