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Cadaba farinosa Forssk. [family CAPPARACEAE]

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Useful Plants of West Tropical Africa

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Burkill, H.M. 1985. The useful plants of west tropical Africa, Vol 1

Names

Cadaba farinosa Forssk. [family CAPPARACEAE]

Common names

MAURITANIA: *ARABIC* ('Maure') azrom (Aub.) szrom (Aub.) zerom (Aub.) zrum (Aub.) **SENEGAL:** *ARABIC* ('Maure') azrom (Aub.) szrom (Aub.) zerom (Aub.) zrum (Aub.) *FULA-PULAAR (Senegal)* balamji (Aub.) sinsin (K&A) sinsiñi (K&A) tēnsen (AS, ex K&A) tsinsiñi (K&A) *MANDING-BAMBARA* démâdugu (JB, ex K&A) tomani (JMD, ex K&A) *MANINKA* béré kunâ (K&A) késébéré tamba (K&A) ñogu (Aub., ex K&A) *SERER* ndébaré (K&A) ndégareg (JMD; FB) ndégarèk (JB) *SERER-NON* gavargi (AS; K&A) gavargi (AS; K&A) *WOLOF* ndébarga (K&A) ndébargé (auctt.) n-débarka (auctt.) **GUINEA:** *FULA-PULAAR (Guinea)* quinquemini (Aub.) *MANDING-MANINKA* bérékunan (Aub.) késébéré tamba niogu (Aub.) **MALI:** *ARABIC* ('Maure') azrom (GR) *FULA-PULAAR (Mali)* balamji (Aub.) *MANDING-BAMBARA* to-magny (GR) to-magny (A. Chev.; FB) *SONGHAI* hassu ueil = male hassu (A. Chev.; FB) kwemkwemini (A. Chev.) uggar (FB) *TAMACHEK* abago (Aub.) **NIGER:** *FULA-FULFULDE (Niger)* balamji (Aub.) *HAUSA* bagaïe (Aub.) *KANURI* gursimé (Aub.) marga (Aub.) *SONGHAI* hassu ueil (Aub.) uggar (Aub.) *TAMACHEK* abago (Aub.) *TUBU* harikanelifi (Aub.) harkanelifl (Aub.) **NIGERIA:** *ARABIC* surreih (JMD) *BOLE* gúno (AST) *FULA-FULFULDE (Nigeria)* balamji (Taylor) bald'amhi (Taylor) beelid'amhi = plant with sweet, pleasant tasting sap (MM) beld'amhi (MM) *HAUSA* bagaji from Fula (MM) bagayi from Fula (JMD; MM) dangarafa (MM) gúno (AST) hadza (ZOG) *HAUSA (East)* anza, hanza (JMD) handja (JMD) *HAUSA (West)* anza (ZOG) *KANURI* bultu (JMD)

Uses

leaf twig bark flower Food: general plant Medicines: generally healing plant Medicines: pain-killers root Medicines: arthritis, rheumatism, etc. plant Medicines: naso-pharyngeal affections shoot Medicines: stomach troubles leaf Medicines: skin, mucosae plant Medicines: diarrhoea, dysentery plant Medicines: vermifuges plant Medicines: food poisoning plant Phytochemistry: glycosides, saponims, steroids leaf Phytochemistry: alkaloids Agri-horticulture: fodder Products: fibre

Description

A shrub, usually much branched from the base, reaching 2–3 m high, of the Sahel and northern soudanian zone of the Region from Mauritania and Senegal to Niger and N Nigeria, and widespread across Africa, even to 1,600 m

altitude, to the Red Sea and Indian Ocean seaboard and in Arabia and India. It is often found on termite mounds (9). The leaves and young twigs are edible. In N Nigeria after pounding they are boiled into a gruel for eating (11) and also often after pounding with cereals and drying a dry brown pudding or cake is made for consumption. This appears in N Nigerian markets as dark soapy irregular pieces more or less chocolate-coloured and is called farsa and balambo in Bornu and baleno or tsawa in eastern Hausa, also tigraganda (4). In Senegal and Mali the pounded leaves are cooked in couscous (3). The bark alone is eaten with cereals (5) and flowers macerated in water are added as a sweetener to scones of millet flour (10). The plant is browsed by all stock (2, 10), though horses and cattle in Senegal do not take it (1). Leaves pounded into a paste are used in Senegal on skin-complaints, more particularly for anthrax (7) and in S Africa a root-decoction is considered an anthrax remedy (12). The plant is credited with analgesic properties. The Wolof of Senegal use the leaves (6, 7) and the Tubu of Niger make an infusion of the shoots (10) for stomach-pains. The Fula of Fouta Toro use the roots with other drug plants for rheumatism (6, 7). Ash of the plant is rubbed into the skin in Tanganyika to relieve general body-pains (12). The plant also has a reputation for the treatment of respiratory and chest-complaints and feverish conditions. A decoction of roots and leaves is used in Senegal (7) or the pounded leaves alone as a cough-medicine (10), to which millet flour may be added to make a sweetened medicine (2). The plant is also used to treat dysentery in Guinea (Pobéguin fide 10) as an antidote in food-poisoning in Egypt, Arabia and India (12), and the leaf and flower buds as a stimulant, antiscorbutic, purgative, emmenagogue, antiphlogistic and anthelmintic (especially for roundworm) in India (12). The pulverised leaves mixed with rust, or with coffee, are taken in Senegal after fasting, as an iron tonic (4). The iron content is however lower than in other Capparaceae at 125 g per 1000 g dry weight in material from Bamako, Mali (3). Copper content is markedly high at 60 g per 1000 g. In northern Ghana, the bark yields a cordage (8). A bitter alkaloid and two organic acids resembling cathartic acid have been detected in the leaf (12). The presence of nitrogenous bases, sterols, aliphatic alcohols and heterosides have also been reported (7).

References

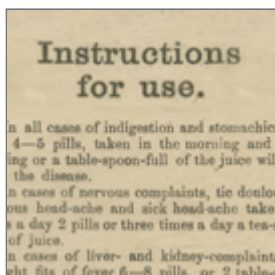
References: 1. Adam, 1966, a. 2. Aubréville, 1950: 51. 3. Busson, 1965: 195–6 (leaf analysis given). 4. Dalziel, 1937. 5. Irvine 1952, a: 30. 6. Kerharo & Adam, 1964, b: 415–6. 7. Kerharo & Adam, 1974: 315. 8. Kitson 504, K. 9. Roberty, 1953: 449. 10. Schnell, R. 1953, d. 11. Thornewill 112, K. 12. Watt & Breyer-Brandwijk, 1962: 160.

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[Pflanzen der Massai-Steppe im Süden, Westen und Südwesten des Kilimandscharo und Meru, welche bei den Massais teils als Medizinalpflanzen, teils als anderweitig nützliche oder schädliche Pflanzen Beachtung finden](http://www.jstor.org/stable/3994046) (http://www.jstor.org/stable/3994046) Oberleutnant Merker, *Notizblatt des Königl. botanischen Gartens und Museums zu Berlin*, Bd. 3, No. 29 (Jun. 30, 1902), pp. 194-197

[On the Ecology of the Red Sea Coastal Land](http://www.jstor.org/stable/2257084) (http://www.jstor.org/stable/2257084) M. Kassas, *Journal of Ecology*, Vol. 45, No. 1 (Apr., 1957), pp. 187-203



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