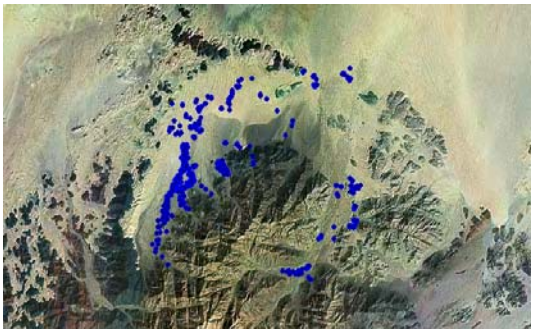
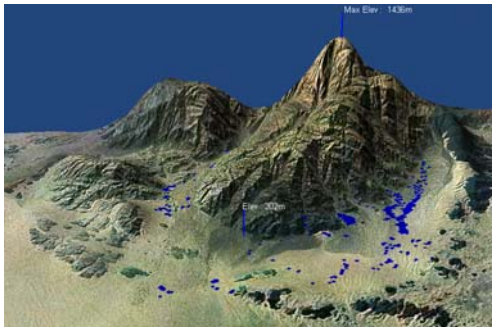
GEPA Economic Plant Field Guide

balanities egyptiaca

laloob - shosheet





Family: Balanitaceae

Synonyms: *Ximenia aegyptiaca* L. (excl. *Balanites roxburghii* Planch), *Agialida senegalensis* vanTiegh., *Agialida barteri* van Tiegh., *Agialida tombuctensis* van Tiegh., *Balanites ziziphoides* Milbr. et Schlechter, *Balanites latifolia* (van Tiegh.) Chiov.

Vernacular/common names: Heglig , balh soker , balh abeed (Arabic) ; shashoob (bisharian) , laloob (ababdian) desert date, soapberry tree, thorn tree, Jerico balsam, simple-thorned torchwood (Eng.); corona di Jesus (Sp.).

Distribution and habitat :

Globally distribution: Natural distribution is obscured by cultivation and naturalizations. It is believed indigenous to all dry lands south of the Sahara (Lars Schmidt and Dorthe Joker), extending southwards to Malawi in the Rift Valley, and to the Arabian Peninsula. Introduced into cultivation in Latin America and India . It has wide ecological distribution, but is mainly found on level alluvial sites with deep sandy loam and free access to water. After the seedling stage . it is intolerant to shade and prefers open woodland or savannah for natural regeneration. It is a lowland species growing up to 1000 m altitude in areas with mean annual temperature of 20-30°C and mean annual rainfall of 250-400 mm. (Lars Schmidt and Dorthe Joker)

Wadi	Dist. rate	Habitats

		Costal Plains	Desert plains	Sand dune	Mountain Slopes
Hodein	low		+		
Abo safaa	low		+		
Deef	low		+		
S.Sarmiti	Mid	+	+		
Yahmeeb	high	+	+	+	+
K.Sroob	high				+
Daieb	low		+	+	
Aedieeb	high	+	+		+
Krm elba	high		+		
Messiah	high		+		
Saiet	Mid		+		
Aseela	Mid		+		

Locally distribution in Egypt : it distribution along a dry land of eastern desert in egypt , extending from Sinai to gabel elba in eastern south and to nile valley

Other uses :

Forage : The fresh and dried leaves, fruits and sprouts are all eaten by livestock. An experiment in Burkina Faso showed that B. aegyptiaca contributed up to 38% of the dry-matter intake of goats in the dry season. The wood is hard, durable and easy to work, but the small stem size and the tendency to fluting make sawmill processing difficult (Lars Schmidt and Dorthe Joker).

Medicine : The fruits have been used in the treatment of liver and spleen diseases. The fruit is also known to kill the snails which carry schistosomiasis and bilharzias flukes (Tredgold 1986). The roots are used for abdominal pains and as a purgative. Gum from the wood is mixed with maize meal porridge to treat chest complaints.

Eating and drink : The fruit pulp though bitter, is edible. It produces fruit even in dry years which makes it a highly appreciated food source in dry areas. Pounded fruits make a refreshing drink which becomes alcoholic if left to ferment**.**

Wood products and timber : B. aegyptiaca has fine-grained dense and heavy heartwood, it is easily worked and takes a good polish. Although valued for furniture it may be twisted and difficult to saw. The wood is durable and resistant to insects making it good for tool handles and domestic items such as spoons. For that in GEPA local community trend to used a wood of balanities as main part in its traditional houses building which called kheloa

Other uses: Root cuttings readily form a live fence. Protein rich leaves and shoots are an excellent source of fodder. The leaves make very good mulch and the tree is nitrogen fixing, it is also valued as firewood since it produces almost no smoke and has a calorific value of 4600 kcal per kg (Webb 1984).

Disease	Used part	Methods	Dosage
Blood Sugar	Fruits	Soaking 5-6 rip fruits in fresh water fro 12 hours , taking a soak drink 3 times daily especially in a start of disease	Drink , 3 times daily to suitable period
Fever heat	Fruit crust , stones	Pulling of a fruit outer crust which it take a yellowish brown color , in the same time separated a fruit drupaceous which take a capsule shape , then grind the two part together until converting them into a powder , after that the powder adding to a fresh water .	Drink , 2-3 time daily
Verteb-rates Leg , back pain	Stem and leaves	Preparing a small hole and burning some leaves and stem of plant in this hole for about 5 minutes , the patient must be seating on the hole position with a heavy cover on all parts of his body except his face .	Closed Steam bath, for half hour after that must be rest .

Botanical description :

Multibranched, spiny shrub or tree up to l0 m tall. Crown spherical, in one or several distinct masses. Trunk short and often branching from near the base. Bark dark brown to grey, deeply fissured. Branches armed with stout yellow

or green thorns up to 8 cm long. Leaves with two separate leaflets; leaflets obovate, asymmetric, 2.5-6 cm long, bright green, leathery, with fine hairs when young. Flowers in fascicles in the leaf axils, fragrant, yellowish-green.

Fruit and seed description

Fruit: a rather long, narrow drupe, 2.5-7 cm long, 1.5-4 cm in diameter. Young fruits green , turning yellow and glabrous when mature. Pulp bitter-sweet and edible.

Seed: the pyrene (stone) is 1.5-3 cm long, light brown, fibrous and extremely hard. It makes up 50-60% of the fruit. There are 500-1500 dry, clean seeds per kg.

Flowering and fruiting habit

In areas with pronounced seasonal climate (northern and southern part of the distribution range) fruit maturation occurs before the rainy season. In most of the Sahelian region the main flowering season is between October and March (Lars Schmidt and Dorthe Joker). , the main fruiting season in GEPA between June to September . Flowering varies between may and June with ripe fruits becoming available in September . Seeds are dispersed by ingestion by larger animals (e.g goats , camel and sheep) in GEPA .

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