Strychnos henningsii

Loganiaceae

Indigenous

Eng: Coffee-bean strychnos

Sm: Hadesa

Ecology

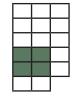
Found in Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia south to South Africa in dry forests, along riverbanks, in scrub as well as coastal forests. In Ethiopia, it is a small shrubby tree found in Dry and Moist Kolla and Weyna Dega agroclimatic zones of Ilubabor, Sidamo and Bale, m. 500-1,850 m.

Uses

Firewood, posts, tool handles, medicine (roots, fruit, bark), live fence.

Description

A very variable tree, usually dense and rounded to 5 m, occasionally to 20 m. BARK: Pale grey-brown then darker. LEAVES: Leathery, shiny above, quite sticky, broadly oval to 6 cm, 3 strong veins from the base and net veins clear also, tip usually sharp. Each pair of leaves at right angles to the next pair along the stem. FLOWERS: Small, cream-yellow, in dense heads. FRUIT: Round, fleshy orange then purple about 1 cm, the thin pulp containing 1-2 seeds, each grooved like a coffee bean.



Propagation

Seedlings.

Seed

Pulp should be removed Treatment: from the seeds before sowing.

Storage: Can be stored for some time.

Management

Produces root suckers. Coppicing, pruning.

Remarks

Heavy, termite-resistant and durable heartwood which makes it good for fence posts. Bark and fruit contain bitter alkaloids.



