

## ***Erica arborea***

Ericaceae

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### **Indigenous**

**Am:** *Adale, Asta, Wuchena*

**Eng:** *Giant heath*

**Gr:** *Gederra*

**Or:** *Wadadi, Sato, Labasse*

**Tg:** *Shanto*

### **Ecology**

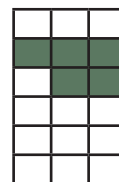
A large species for this family, typical of African highlands. It grows on dry rocky ground with thin soils in Moist and Wet Dega and Wurch agroclimatic zones, 2,500–3,300 m.

### **Uses**

Firewood, charcoal, fodder (leaves, shoots), bee forage, live fence, fencing material (dry branches).

### **Description**

A much-branched evergreen shrub or narrow tree to 5 m. **LEAVES:** Grow closely around the stems as in most heaths, narrow and pointed, grey-green and tough, to 1 cm long. Branchlets hairy. **FLOWERS:** Abundant, white-pink, at the ends of short side shoots. Each flower is like a tiny hanging bell, the purple stigma outside the white flower. **FRUIT:** A capsule containing many tiny seeds.



### **Propagation**

Seedlings are less successful, wildings may do better.

### **Seed**

40,000–50,000 seed per kg.

Treatment:

Storage:

### **Management**

Coppicing.

### **Remarks**

Seeds are very tiny and difficult to harvest. Branches are burnt to smoke out new beehives. The branches make a useful fence around homesteads.

