

Tree factsheet

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***Boswellia papyrifera* (Del.) Hochst.**

information from Ogbazghi 2001; edited Leo Goudzwaard

taxonomy	
author, year	Hochst.
synonym	
family	Burseraceae
Eng. Name	Sudanese frankincense (Forestry Compendium); true frankincense
other names	
Dutch name	
subspecies	-
varieties	-
hybrids	-
references	Forestry Compendium. CAB International. 2005. www.cabicompendium.org/fc
	Ogbazghi, Woldeselassie. 2001. The distribution and regeneration of <i>Boswellia papyrifera</i> in Eritrea. Thesis Wageningen University.
	Tousseyn, D. 2004. Gum and resin resources of Ethiopia II. Internship report Wageningen University.
	Peijnenburg, J.F.M.W. 2007. The spatial distribution and regeneration status of <i>Boswellia</i> species on Socotra, Yemen. Thesis report Wageningen University. (not <i>B. papyrifera</i>).
	http://sylvarom.com/
morphology	
crown habit	
max. height (m)	12
max. dbh (cm)	
actual sizes –location, country -	
oldest tree –location-	
leaf length (cm)	45
leaf petiole (cm)	
leaf colour upper surface	green
leaf colour under surface	green
leaves arrangement	pinnately compound consisting of 6-8 pairs of leaflets and one at the top
flowering	dry Season, when the leaves have fallen off
flowering plant	
flower	
flower diameter pollen cones (cm)	
inflorescence description, length	red flower stalk to 35 cm long bearing white-pink flowers with 5 petals and 10 yellow stamens
pollination	
fruit description	red capsule, three sided, three hard seeds
fruiting period	wet season
fruit; length (cm)	2
fruit petiole; length (cm)	
seed; length (cm)	
seed-wing length (cm)	
weight of 1000 seeds (kg)	
seeds ripen	
seed dispersal	
seed longevity	
dormancy	

habitat	
natural distribution	dry parts of Africa from Nigeria to Eritrea and Ethiopia (Ogbazghi)
introduced countries	
area natural habitat (ha)	
soil type	shallow soils, due to agriculture
water	dry
pH-KCl	
soil fertility	usually poor on
light	light demanding
temperature	tropical
"optimum natural development"	highland tropical dry forest
remarks	
management	
status natural range	threatened; declining in numbers
status introduced range	
application	gum production
propagation	natural by seed
regeneration	natural regeneration
optimal gap size for regeneration	
resprouting after cutting	
growth rate	
diseases	
insects	many insect species and fungi cause huge mortality of seeds
ecology	
plant communities / associations	
associated trees	
wood	
trade name	
wood structures key characteristics	
density heartwood (kg/m ³)	
elastic modulus (N/mm ²)	
total above ground biomass	
fungi class durability heartwood	
heartwood colour	
sapwood colour	
contents	
products	poles, match boxes, boards and plywood
market	small amounts for industrial purposes
non-timber products	
stem, tapping	true frankincense from the oleo-gum (Dutch: wierook)
leaves, bark and roots	traditional medicine
leaves	fodder
flowers	nectar for honeybees



Boswellia papyrifera forest, a guard in *Boswellia* woodland and a man tapping the stem for gum, in Eritrea. all photo's ©Woldeselassie Ogbazghi.

