



EXTINCT FOREST SPECIES

FOREST SPECIES THREATENED IN THE

SALOUMAUCENTREDUBASSI NARACHIDIEDUS É N É GAL

CASDUDITAKH

VERNACULAR NAMES: DITAKH (WOLOF), NDOOY (SERER), DÉTAR (FRENCH)

SCIENTIFIC NAME: DETARIUM SENEGALENSE

SPECIES DESCRIPTION

Detarium senegalense is a forest tree with a straight, cylindrical trunk, 25 to 30 meters tall, with a large crown. The branches are low and spreading. The tree's crown is broad and leafy. The bark is dark, blackish, with fine fissures. The leaves are pinnately compound, with 5 to 6 oval leaflets and rounded at the tips. The difference with *Detarium microcarpum* is that they are glossy green and smaller. The inflorescences are racemes. Creamy-white, hairless flowers in the axils. The flattened oval fruits are fleshy and edible.



Photos of the species *Detarium Senegalense* (Ditakh)

2 | Ethnobotany and Origin of Ditakh

The genus *Detarium* comprises three important species: *D. microcarpum*, *D. senegalensis* and *D. macrocarpum*. Morphologically, These three species are very similar, but they differ in their Distribution. The detar is a species native to tropical Africa up to the Sudan. It often grows along waterways. In Senegal, it is common in Casamance and Saloum. It is planted as a fruit tree and as an ornamental shade tree.

3 | Ecosystems and climatic factors favorable to Ditakh

It is commonly called the "tallow tree". It is widely used in herbal medicine and as a food source. It is important to do the distinction between edible and toxic fruit. Note that the fruit toxic has a strong bitterness and the smell of its juice is nauseating. The tree can also be recognized when the fruit is ripe; for they are abundant and fermenting under the tree. They are not, in fact consumed by monkeys. The *Detarium senegalense* is a species that lives mainly in the The following ecosystems:

• • Peanut Basin of Senegal:

This area is characterized by alternating dry and dry seasons rainy, with annual rainfall between 600 and 800mm. The vegetation consists of wooded and shrubby savannah, as well as gallery forests and mangroves in the valleys. However, one Ditakh can be found in several regions of Senegal; the areas The most notable are: Casamance and the Saloum Delta. In the area In the south, one finds low-lying areas suitable for agricultural production. dried cereals and legumes (peanuts, cowpeas).

Forests and savannas : *Detarium senegalense* generally develops in forest ecosystems and savannas, where it benefits from a climate Relatively hot and humid. Classified forests – as in the Delta

The Saloum and its nature reserves – constitute suitable habitats for this species.

Agroforestry areas : agroforestry areas where trees are integrated into agricultural systems, they can also shelter the Ditakh; because These ecosystems promote biodiversity and allow for management rational use of natural resources.

Integration with other crops: *Detarium senegalense* can be integrated into legume crops such as peanuts, beans and dry cereals such as millet and sorghum which are commonly cultivated in the Peanut Basin. There are also market garden crops such as tomatoes, onions, or chili peppers.

However, the degradation of forest resources, the excessive logging of wood and the adverse effects of climate change constitute major challenges for the sustainability of this practice.

• **Climatic characteristics of these ecosystems:**

Climate : Senegal is characterized by three climatic zones: Sahelian, Sudanese, and Sub-Guinean. The Detarium, however, is better adapted to the Sudanese climate that prevails in the central part of the country, with relatively high temperatures and rainfall important.

Vegetation: Wooded and shrubby savannas, gallery forests and mangroves.

Rainfall : The Detarium senegalense requires rainfall sufficient to ensure its growth and development. The areas with annual rainfall between 600 and 1200mm are favorable to Detarium Senegalense; which corresponds to the zone Sudanese-Senegalese that extends from the South-Central to the West-Central territory, including Fatick, Kaolack, Kaffrine and Tambacounda but also part of the Diourbel region (the department of Bambey, in particular).

Veterinarian :

- the leaves and fruits are consumed by livestock;
- Fresh crushed leaves to treat wounds,

- root decoction against intestinal diseases in livestock.

Fertilizer: It is used as foliar litter for crops, improving the soil fertility and crop yield;

Other: Furniture manufacturing using durable and resistant solid wood termites.

4 | Traditional instructions

With the decoction of the leaves and/or bark: a handful (100g approximately) on half a liter of water in 10 minutes, at a rate of one cup, twice per day.

Beneficial for colic, diarrhea, and external use against skin problems.

Precaution for use : not recommended for young children and the pregnant woman.

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5 | Cultivation of Ditakh (Détarium Senegalense)

Cultivation requires several specific steps and conditions.

to ensure optimal growth.

The plant reproduces spontaneously through offshoots, suckers, and seeds.

germinated. It generally grows in moist soils and along the Watercourses. Seedlings need moisture and exposure.

complete in sunlight.

6 | Growing conditions

Climate: The Ditakh thrives in dry tropical zones, particularly in the Sudanese and subtropical regions.

Soil: It prefers well-drained, deep soils, but can tolerate other soils poor and resistant to drought.

Planting period: Planting should be carried out at the beginning of rainy season to maximize the survival rate of young plants.

Spacing: It is recommended to leave a space of 10m to 12m between the trees to allow for optimal growth.

Care: Regular watering is necessary during the first few years years, but the tree can withstand periods of drought extended once established.

Multiplication:

- **Sowing :** the seeds must be soaked in hot water to to facilitate germination, which can take 6 to 10 weeks.
- **Cuttings:** healthy stem segments can be rooted in a suitable substrate for developing new roots. The Growth is slow; it can take 8 to 10 years to begin produce fruit after planting. However, it can live up to It lives for 50 to 100 years and produces 100 to 200 kg of fruit per year. It is appreciated for its multiple uses (edible fruits, properties) medicinal properties and the quality of its wood)