

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Mediterranean Buckthorn | <i>Rhamnus alaternus</i> | L-Alaternu |
| Common English name | Scientific name | Maltese name |

Where is this tree found in the world – (Species Distribution)

It is native to southern Europe and north-western Africa.

What is the preferred habitat for this tree?

It grows in scrubland of the Mediterranean climate regions and can tolerate maritime exposure.

Is it green all year (evergreen), or does it change according to the season (deciduous)?

It is evergreen.

How tall can it grow? (height)

It may grow to a max of 5m.

What are the leaves and flowers like?

These leaves are oval in outline (ovate) and sharply toothed. The insect-pollinated small greenish-yellow flowers bloom in April, and they have both male and female organs.

What are the fruits like?

The pollinated flowers produce reddish fruit (drupes) that ripen to a dark purple colour.

What do humans use this tree for?

As it grows fast, it is easy to reintroduce in scrubland and is also used for ornamental landscaping.



Does this tree have legal protection?

It is protected within protected areas, in areas outside the development zone (ODZ), in green places, and natural or rural/green enclaves in urban areas (development zone), or urban public open spaces (according to the ERA 2018 list of trees and woodland protection regulations).