

<b>Sandarac Gum Tree</b>	<i>Tetraclinis articulata</i>	<b>is-Sigra tal-Għargħar</b>
Common English name	Scientific name	Maltese name

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

It is endemic in northern Africa and the western Mediterranean, including the Maltese Islands. It is the Maltese National tree.

***What is the preferred habitat for this tree?***

It grows in open woodland characteristic to this species, in very dry, semi-arid slopes, ravines and on scree, usually preferring well-drained calcareous substrates with little clay.

***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 15m.

***What are the leaves and flowers like?***

The leaves are tiny, elongated and scale-like. This species produces tiny flowers in autumn or winter.



***What are the fruits like?***

Male cones with pollen-bearing scales are located at the ends of the twigs. There are four parts of the female cones (valves). These ripen in the summer of the following year, and within are 3 or 4 double-winged seeds that help in wind dispersal.

***What do humans use this tree for?***

It is used in afforestation projects.

***Does this tree have legal protection?***

Although not globally threatened, it is Critically Endangered in Spain and Malta.

It is strictly protected in all locations in Malta (according to schedule I of LN200/2011 AND schedule III + VI of LN311/2006 & the ERA 2018 list of trees and woodland protection regulations).