

You are viewing one of thousands of biographies – click below for more, including Search box and access to Plant associated organisations.

[Plant Biographies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

Quercus fruticosa

[Synonyms : *Quercus aegylopiifolia*, *Quercus australis*, *Quercus baetica*, *Quercus brachycarpa*, *Quercus faginea* subsp. *lusitanica*, *Quercus fruticosa* var. *vulgaris*, *Quercus glauca*, *Quercus humilis*, *Quercus lusitanica*, *Quercus lusitanica* var. *humilis*, *Quercus lusitanica* subsp. *valentina*, *Quercus muricata*, *Quercus ovalifolia*, *Quercus prasina*, *Quercus quexigo*, *Quercus rigida*, *Quercus undulata*, *Quercus zang*]

GALL OAK (Portuguese) is a semi-evergreen shrub. Native to Morocco, Portugal and southern Spain, it has spiny-tipped, leathery, green leaves and oblong acorns.

It is also known as *Carvalhiça* (Portuguese), *Carvalho anão* (Portuguese), *Eik soort* (Dutch), Lusitanian oak, *Portugali tamm* (Estonian), *Portugiesische Eiche* (German), and *Roble de tintoreros* (Spanish).

The flowers are pollinated by the wind.

Fruticosa means ‘bushy or shrubby’.

This shrub was introduced to North America in 1829.

Processed acorns have been eaten in the past. The processing involved burial in wet ground during Winter or careful and repeated washing in running water to remove the bitter-tasting tannins. Apart from food they have also provided a coffee substitute.

Medicinally, the galls have provided a remedy for treating dysentery, chronic diarrhoea and haemorrhaging.