Teclea nobilis

Del.

# Rutaceae

# LOCAL NAMES

Amharic (atesa); English (small fruited teclea); Luganda (mubio)

#### **BOTANIC DESCRIPTION**

Teclea nobilis is an unarmed evergreen shrub or tree (3-)5-12 m high or much taller in rain forest; bark smooth or grey; branchlets glabrous.

Leaves trifoliolate, occasionally 2-or 1 foliolate; petiole 1.5-6(-8) cm long, terete or sometimes slightly grooved at the apex usually glabrous; leaflets subsessile or with a petiolulate up to 10 mm long, oblong-elliptic, 5-15(-18) cm long, 1.5-4(-5.5) cm broad, acute to acuminate at the apex, narrowly cuneate at the base, glabrous, but sometimes puberulous on the midrib; lateral nerves numerous.

Inflorescence of terminal and axillary panicles 4-15(-21) cm long, glabrous. Flowers polygamous. Sepals 4, united into a cupuliform calyx 0.6-0.8 mm long; lobes small, ovate, ciliate. Petals 4(-5), narrowly elliptic, 3.5-4 mm long, 1.5-1.7 mm broad. Male flowers with 4(-5) stamens 3-5.5 mm long; anthers basifixed; rudimentary ovary slender and glabrous. Female flower with 4 or 5 staminodes 0.5-1.2 mm long. Ovary subglobose, 1-1.4 mm in diameter, glabrous unilocular, 2-ovulate; style up to 0.5 mm long; stigma disk-shaped and peltate, 1 mm in diameter, red, glabrous, barely foveolate, wrinkled when dry, 1-seeded.

Fruit yellow, orange or red, round or ellipsoid becoming wrinkled, 6-8 x 5-6 mm.

Seed ovoid, 5.5-6 mm long. The specific epithet nobilis is after the Latin word "nobilissimus" meaning noble or reknowned.

#### **BIOLOGY**

Dispersal of seeds in T. nobilis seems to rely little on frugivorous birds.



Fruit and foliage (Bob Bailis)



bole (Bob Bailis)



T. nobilis leaves (Bob Bailis)

Teclea nobilis Del.

# Rutaceae

# **ECOLOGY**

A large tree found in evergreen forest, riverine forest and woodland. Commonly associated with Podocarpus and Juniperus. In Uganda it grows in colonizing forests, thickets, forest edges and mixed forest from lowland to lower montane areas.

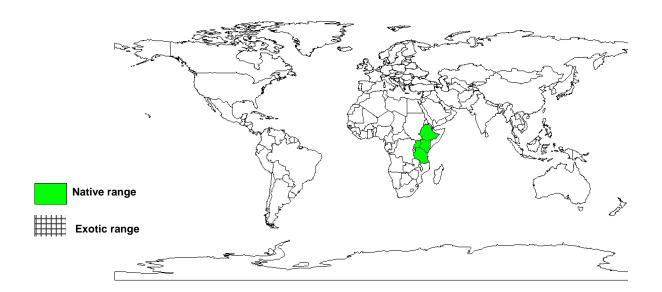
BIOPHYSICAL LIMITS Altitude: 900-2 600 m

Mean annual rainfall: 1 200-2 500 mm Mean annual temperature: 18-26 deg.C

# DOCUMENTED SPECIES DISTRIBUTION

Native: Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda

Exotic:



The map above shows countries where the species has been planted. It does neither suggest that the species can be planted in every ecological zone within that country, nor that the species can not be planted in other countries than those depicted. Since some tree species are invasive, you need to follow biosafety procedures that apply to your planting site.

Teclea nobilis Del.

# Rutaceae

# **PRODUCTS**

Food: The fruit is edible.

Apiculture: The fragrant flowers are a source of nectar and pollen for bees.

Fuel: Provides good fuelwood.

Timber: The wood is used to make bows, tool handles, barkcloth mallets, clubs and walking sticks. Poles obtained from the tree are used for house construction. The wood is tough, strong, durable predisposing it to overexploitation in its native range.

Essential oil:

Medicine: The leaf or root decoction mixed with honey is used against pneumonia in Kenya. The roots are used as an anthelminthic. The steam inhalation of the leaves reportedly cures fever.

# **SERVICES**

Shade or shelter: This tree provides excellent shade.

Soil improver: The leaf litter enriches underlying soil.

Boundary or barrier or support: Poles obtained from the tree are used for fencing and construction.

Del. Teclea nobilis

Rutaceae

# TREE MANAGEMENT

A moderate to slow growing tree. Can be managed by coppicing and pollarding.

GERMPLASM MANAGEMENT
T. nobilis is not a prolific seeder, has about 20 000 seeds/kg. Germination rates and seed viability are low.

Del. Teclea nobilis

Rutaceae

# **FURTHER READNG**

Chapman CA and Chapman LJ. 1995. Survival without dispersers: seedling recruitment under parents. Conservation Biology. 9(3): 675-678.

Katende AB et al. 1995. Useful trees and shrubs for Uganda. Identification, Propagation and Management for Agricultural and Pastoral Communities. Regional Soil Conservation Unit (RSCU), Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA).

Kokwaro JO. 1976. Medicinal plants of East Africa. East African Literature Bureau.

Kokwaro JO. 1982. Rutaceae. In: Flora of Tropical East Africa. AA Balkema, Rotterdam.

SUGGESTED CITATION
Orwa C, Mutua A , Kindt R , Jamnadass R, Simons A. 2009. Agroforestree Database:a tree reference and selection guide version 4.0 (http://www.worldagroforestry.org/af/treedb/)