

Allophylus africanus

Sapindaceae

Indigenous

COMMON NAMES: **Boran:** Gadida; **Luhya (Bukusu):** Kumunyanyakhanu; **Luo:** Nyaludhi, Nyamoch, Ochond atego, Oludh kuon, Oseklele, Oswekele; **Sabaot:** Mongunyet.

DESCRIPTION: An evergreen shrub or small tree up to 6 m high with **spreading branches** and fairly dense foliage. **BARK:** Grey and smooth. **LEAVES:** Divided into **3 leaflets** on a stalk to 7 cm long, very variable, dark shiny green above, **leaflets wider beyond the middle, without stalk, margin toothed.** **FLOWERS:** **Small, cream-white, fragrant,** arranged in heads from leaf axils or at the tip of the shoot, heads up to 12 cm long. **FRUIT:** Soft berries arranged in **bunches, orange, turning dark red to black** when ripe, 6 mm in diameter, without hairs. Many small seeds inside.

ECOLOGY: Found from Sierra Leone in West Africa through Central Africa and Uganda and western Kenya south to Mozambique and Zimbabwe. In Kenya it is found in Western Province, Trans Nzoia, Uasin Gishu, where it is common in moist wooded grassland, often along rivers or on termite mounds. Agroclimatic Zones III–IV. Flowers in May–September in Rift Valley and western Kenya; fruit October–January.

USES: Medicine, fodder, bee forage, fibre (thin fibrous stems used for granaries), soil conservation.

PROPAGATION: Seedlings.

SEED: Collect mature fruit and allow to dry.

treatment: Not necessary.

storage: Seed can be stored for long periods.

MANAGEMENT: Fairly fast growing.

REMARKS: Tolerates trampling by livestock, but susceptible to browsing. Another species, *A. rubifolius* (**Digo:** Mbanda tchitswa, Muvudza kondo; **Giriama:** Munyanga kitswa; **Kipsigis:** Chekeleliet, Borowet; **Luo:** Nyamwoch; **Maasai:** Osyaiti orok; **Malakote:** Mwenze banya; **Pokot:** Chepkokai; **Somali:** Idi shibel bured; **Swahili:** Mlishangwa, Mkona chuma; **Tharaka:** Mutengerete; **Turkana:** Ekarai) is more widely distributed in Kenya. It is usually shrubby, very variable, occupying a great variety of habitats, 0–2,000 m. It is used for medicine.

FURTHER READING: Backes and Ahenda, 1998; Beentje, 1994; Kokwaro, 1993; Palgrave and Palgrave, 2002; Storrs, 1979.

