

Ekebergia capensis

Meliaceae

Indigenous

Standard/Trade name: Ekebergia, Teldet.

COMMON NAMES: **Bajun:** Mpotowandovu mkuu; **Boni:** Mrongoleh; **English:** Ekebergia; **Kamba:** Mukongu; **Kikuyu:** Mununga; **Kipsigis:** Araruet; **Kisii:** Omonyamavi; **Luhya (Bukusu):** Kumusilisisi; **Luo:** Tido; **Maasai:** Osongoroi, Ormokoriongo, Olobaiye tiogata, Olsbukiaai; **Marakwet:** Kerbut; **Meru:** Muchogomo; **Nandi:** Teldet; **Ogiek:** Ororuet, Oroyuet, Otorouet, Rararuet; **Sabaot:** Bumet, Kipumetet; **Swahili:** Mpotowa ndovu mkuu; **Taita:** Manuki masi; **Tugen:** Arariet, Temwa; **Turkana:** Eng'amwo.

DESCRIPTION: A semi-deciduous tree, 8–30 m, with a large spreading crown. Old trees may have buttresses and large branches. **BARK:** Grey-brown and rough with age, cracking into pieces about 5 cm square; the slash is **red with white streaks**, branchlets dotted with whitish pores. **LEAVES:** Compound, mostly crowded **at the ends of branches**, on stalks to 30 cm long, leaflets **3–6 pairs** plus one, shiny green but some hairs below, up to 15 cm long, tip pointed, **leaflet blades unequal-sided**. **FLOWERS:** In loose sprays, up to 8 cm, each flower small, white and sweetly scented, male flowers on different plants (dioecious). **FRUIT:** **Rounded**, 1–2 cm long, thin-skinned and orange, on long stalks, drying and splitting to set free 2–4 seeds.

ECOLOGY: A medium-sized to large African tree, very variable, with wide distribution from Senegal to Ethiopia and south to South Africa; first described in Cape Province, thus the name 'capensis'. Widely distributed in Kenya in a variety of habitats from lowland scrub to highland forest. Often used as a shady meeting place in open grassland, 0–1,500 m. Agroclimatic Zones II–III. Flowers in April–June and fruits in September–November in Bungoma.

USES: Firewood, charcoal, timber (construction), furniture, poles, tool handles, medicine (root), bee forage, shade, ornamental, windbreak.

PROPAGATION: Seedlings, wildings.

SEED: 2,900–8,600 seeds per kg. Fresh seeds germinate best.

treatment: Fruit pulp should be removed and seeds cleaned in water before sowing.

storage: Seed does not store long. Use fresh seed.

MANAGEMENT: Fairly fast growing.

REMARKS: Wildings used more commonly for propagation.

FURTHER READING: <http://www.worldagroforestrycentre.org/Sites/TreeDBS/AFT/AFT.htm>; Backes and Ahenda, 1998; Beentje, 1994; Bekele-Tesemma et al., 1993; Fichtl and Adi, 1994; Katende et al., 1995; Kokwaro, 1993; Mbuya et al., 1994; Noad and Birnie, 1989; Palgrave and Palgrave, 2002; Sommerlatte and Sommerlatte, 1990; Storrs, 1979; van Wyk, 1993.

