

Ekebergia capensis (E. rueppeliana)

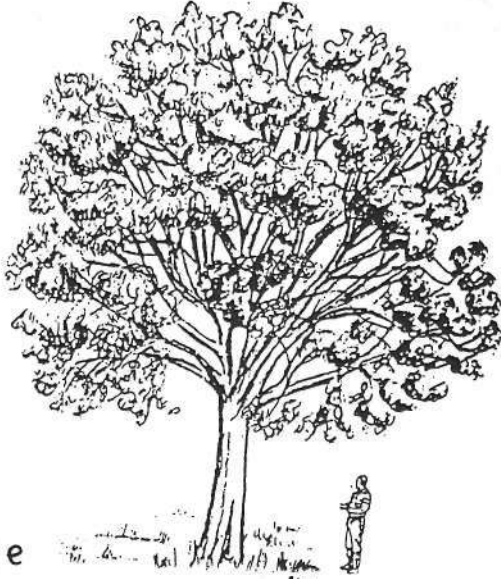
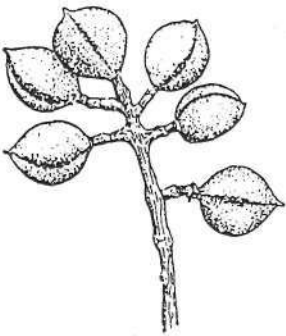
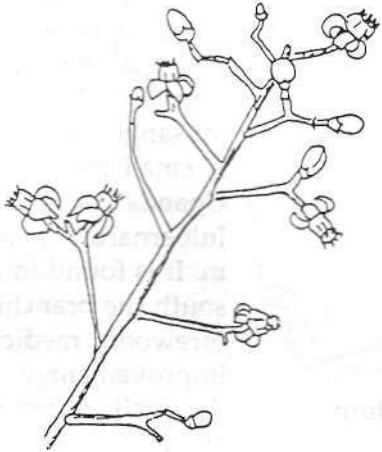
*Melastaceae*

Indigenous

- Common names: Arusha: ol mukuma, olmukuna; Bara: mtongoti; Chag: mfuare, mfyahi, mroboki, msisi; Eng: ekebergia; Fipa: mng'ongo; Gogo: mvumba; Haya: musimbi; Iraqw: taewi mtongoti taewi; Kere: mgondogondo; Kinga: lurulamona muvulamono; Maasai: ol mukuna, osongoroi; Menu: mkuna, olmkuna, olmkuno; Rangi: mnu, mtarima; Samb: monko; Zinza: umuyagu.
- Ecology: A semi-deciduous evergreen tree with a spreading crown widely distributed in a variety of habitats from lowland scrub to highland forest, often a shady meeting place in open grassland, 0-1,500 m. In Tanzania it is common on the northern and western slopes of Mts. Kilimanjaro and Meru, and also found in Usambara, Iringa and on Maisome Island in Lake Victoria.
- Uses: Firewood, poles, timber (furniture, light construction), tool handles, medicine, fodder (leaves), bee forage, shade, ornamental, soil conservation, windbreak.
- Description: A handsome tree, 20-30 m. BARK: brown and rough with age, branchlets dotted with whitish breathing pores LEAVES: compound, on stalks to 30 cm, mostly crowded at the ends of branches, young leaflets hairy, later thin and shiny, up to five pairs of lateral leaflets, leaf blades unequal-sided, to 10 cm long. FLOWERS: in loose sprays, up to 8 cm, each flower small and white, heavily scented. Male and female flowers on different trees. FRUIT: rounded, thin-skinned berries on long stalks, yellow-red when ripe.
- Propagation: Seedlings, wildings.
- Seed info.: No. of seeds per kg: 2,500-8,600. Germination is fairly good.
- treatment: not necessary.
- storage: seed does not store.
- Management: Fairly fast growing.
- Remarks: Wildings are used more commonly for propagation. The light pale wood with an even grain makes attractive furniture.

Ekebergia capensis (E. meppeliana)

Meliaceae



A. Birnie