

Fagaropsis angolensis

Rutaceae

Indigenous

COMMON NAMES: **Kikuyu:** Mukaragati; **Luhya:** Shingulotso; **Marakwet:** Kwiril; **Meru:** Mukuria mbungu, Murumu; **Nandi:** Noiywet.

DESCRIPTION: A medium-sized or large deciduous tree with spreading crown, occasionally to 20 m, much lower on poor sites; sometimes with buttresses. **BARK:** Light grey-brown, slightly corky, branchlets purple-brown, hairy, dotted with pale lenticels. When freshly cut, bright orange with a white slash. **LEAVES:** Compound, opposite, on a stalk to 30 cm, without hairs, with 2–4 pairs of shiny ovate leaflets and one terminal leaflet, 4–9 cm long, tip pointed, aromatic when crushed. Lateral leaves unequal-sided. **FLOWERS:** Small, inconspicuous, green-yellow, produced in heads or on branched flowering stalks up to 12 cm long on the bare tree. Sepals white, hairy outside. Male and female flowers separate on the same tree. **FRUIT:** Rounded to 1 cm across, roughly dotted with glands, pale green, becoming soft, shiny purple when ripe.

ECOLOGY: Found from Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of Congo south to Angola and Malawi. In Kenya, found in the Taita Hills, Central Province and western Kenya. Common in dry evergreen forest, rocky bushland and at the edges of rainforest; 1,150–2,100 m. Agroclimatic Zones I–II.

USES: Firewood, timber, furniture, flooring.

PROPAGATION: Seedlings. Produces root suckers.

SEED: About 4,000–4,500 seeds per kg. The germination is very good and fast.

treatment: Not necessary.

storage: Use fresh seed for best result.

MANAGEMENT: Fairly fast growing, coppicing.

REMARKS: The timber is fine, grey, moderately hard but not durable in the ground. It is easy to saw, finishes well and can make beautiful furniture and panelling. A related and possibly the same species is *F. hildebrandtii*, distinguished by its leaflets, which are softly hairy beneath. It is mainly found in Nairobi and surrounding districts.

FURTHER READING: Beentje, 1994; Bekele-Tesemma et al., 1993; Mbuya et al., 1994; Noad and Birnie, 1989; Palgrave and Palgrave, 2002.

