

Indigenous

Bl: *Atenka, Kilheb*
Nr: *Soreb*

Eng: *Propeller tree*
Tr: *Kilheb*

Km: *Agaga*

Ecology: A tree of hot dry lowlands, woodland and thickets or rocky ridges and stony slopes as far south as South Africa. In Eritrea, it grows in the western lowlands, 600-1,400 m, in wooded grassland and woodland. It is common around Begu, Gonge, Hagaz, Kelhamet, Adobha and Barentu.

Uses: Firewood, timber (furniture), **bracelets** (fruits).

Description: A deciduous tree, tall and straight to 20 m, often less. BARK: Smooth, pale grey-white, later turning rough and dark. Twigs brittle. LEAVES: Alternate, **rounded, with 3 lobes, 10 cm across** on thin leaf stalks to 8 cm, **3 yellow veins from the base**, dark above and **pale grey-green below, turning yellow before leaf fall**, softly hairy. FLOWERS: **Small, yellow-green, smelling unpleasant, in dense branched heads on the bare tree**, many male flowers with a few bisexual or female flowers. FRUIT: A hard **woody oval nut**, veins well marked, bearing **2 long thin paddle-like wings**, 5-8 cm. The fruit breaks off the tree and is dispersed by wind as the wings rotate through the air like a helicopter.

Propagation: Seedlings.

Seed:

treatment: Not necessary.

storage: Can be stored for a year in airtight containers.

Management: Fast growing.

Remarks: The white latex has been used for rubber production, but the soft white wood is a poor timber. Elsewhere bark has been used for medicinal purposes. The subspecies *africanus* is recorded in Eritrea.

