

Kigelia africana (K. aethiopum, K. pinnata) *Bignoniaceae*

Indigenous

Bl: Jungule

Eng: Sausage tree

Tg: Mederba

Tr: Zelzele

- Ecology:** Widespread in Africa, this tree is found in wet savannah and along rivers in arid areas. In Eritrea, it is most common along river banks of Anseba (Ghenfelom), Arewai and Kuruh (Mensa), the Barka river (Mai-ferhet) and upper and lower Mereb, 1,300-1,600 m.
- Uses:** **Firewood**, timber (dugout canoes, yokes), **fodder** (flowers and leaves), bee forage, dye (fruit), river-bank stabilization.
- Description:** A semi-deciduous tree with a rounded crown, to 9 m in open woodland but 18 m beside rivers. **BARK:** Grey-brown, smooth, flaking in round patches with age. **LEAVES:** Compound, **growing in threes**, at the end of branches, few leaflets, each broadly oval, **very rough and hard, up to 10 cm**, often with a **sharp tip, edge wavy**. **FLOWERS:** On long rope-like stalks 2-3 m. Horizontal, reddish branches, in threes, bear upturned trumpet flowers, petals folded and wavy, **dark maroon with heavy yellow veins** outside, an unpleasant smell. **FRUIT:** Large **grey-green "sausages"**, 30-60 cm long. Hanging stalks remain on the tree. Several kilos of fibrous pulp contain the seeds—only released when fruit rots on the ground.
- Propagation:** Seedlings.
- Seed:** Not a prolific seeder. Poor germination rate and slow to germinate. No. of seeds per kg: 3,400-6,000.
- treatment:** Not necessary.
- storage:** Seed should not be stored.
- Management:** Slow growing, pollarding.
- Remarks:** Unripe fruit are poisonous. The tree does not compete with crops.

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