

Lannea fulva

Anacardiaceae

Indigenous

COMMON NAMES: **Luhya (Bukusu):** Kumubumbu; **Marakwet:** Gorot, Lolotwa; **Pokot:** Lolotwo, Lalat (plural).

DESCRIPTION: A deciduous leafy shrub spreading near the ground, or a tree 3–10 m with a short irregular bole and much branching to a rounded crown, branchlets drooping. **BARK:** Thick, grey-brown, flaking. Tough and used for string. **Branchlets, leaf and flower stalks have yellow hairs.** **LEAVES:** Some single leaves but usually 3 leaflets, the large central leaflet 5–8 cm, on a 2-cm stalk, lateral leaflets smaller, leaflets oval to rounded, tip rounded, blunt or notched, **dark shiny green above when mature, but very dense pale yellow-brown hairs below.** **FLOWERS:** Small, yellow-green, on simple 4–12 cm spikes, with some branches, beside leaves, **stalk white, hairy.** **FRUIT:** Purple when ripe, less than 1 cm, oblong, somewhat flattened.

ECOLOGY: A widespread tree in eastern Africa, Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo in open wooded grassland, often on rock outcrops and termite mounds and at forest edges, 900–1,600 m. In Kenya, restricted to the western region. Very common near Ramogi Hill in Bondo District and in parts of West Pokot. Agroclimatic Zones II–III. Fruits in June–July and in December–January in Nyanza and Western Kenya.

USES: Firewood, charcoal, poles (construction), edible fruit, medicine (bark, roots), shade, ornamental.

PROPAGATION: Direct sowing at site, seedlings, cuttings. Sow seed in pots if seedlings are to be raised.

SEED: Fruit can be collected on the ground under the trees either fresh or dry. Soak fruit, separate seed from pulp and dry the seed or sow immediately.

treatment: Soaking in lukewarm or cold water may improve germination if seeds were dried.

storage: Best to use fresh seed.

MANAGEMENT: Coppicing, pollarding.

REMARKS: A beautiful shrub due to its green and pale yellow leaves with potential as an ornamental shrub and shade tree. The heavy foliage of these trees stands out in areas that have been overgrazed. Cattle herders should be encouraged to plant them around their homesteads or watering places.

FURTHER READING: Beentje, 1994; Katende et al., 1995, 1999; Kokwaro, 1993; Ruffo et al., 2002.

