

Lannea rivae* (L. floccosa)*Anacardiaceae****Indigenous**

COMMON NAMES: **Kamba:** Kithaala, Kithaalua kya kiima; **Marakwet:** Latat (plural), Lolowe; **Pokot:** Lolotwo; **Somali:** Anri, Jidwey; **Turkana:** Etopojo.

DESCRIPTION: A deciduous shrub or small tree, 1.5–6 m, with a flat spreading crown. **BARK:** More or less smooth, becoming cracked and rough, underbark red. Short thick branches with rough raised breathing pores. **LEAVES:** **Wide oval to rounded, 3–10 cm, rough above and dense star-shaped white hairs below, leaf stalks to 4 cm with similar hairs, leaves single but several crowded on the short small knobby side branches.** **FLOWERS:** Often on the bare tree, very small, along **spike-like stalks 1–3 cm**, on short lateral branches, petals yellow-green to 5 mm, **sepals** and stalks covered with white star-shaped hairs. **FRUIT:** **Ovoid, to 1.4 cm long, densely hairy, with edible flesh around the seed.**

ECOLOGY: Occurs in southern Ethiopia, Kenya and northern Tanzania. In Kenya, for example at Moyale, Masii (Machakos), Bisil (Kajiado) in open *Terminalia-Combretum* bushland and wooded grassland, 300–2,000 m. Most common at 1,400–1,900 m on well-aerated sandy, rocky and loam soils. Agroclimatic Zones IV–V.

USES: Edible fruit, edible inner bark, medicine (inner bark), shade, fibre, live fence, toothbrushes.

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: Lopping, pollarding. Coppices easily when cut.

REMARKS: Inner bark chewed for its sweet taste and as a refreshment. Fibre obtained after chewing is used for ropes and weaving. 'Wool' of dug up roots is used for stuffing mattresses (Mbeere). The tree is used as a bird-scaring platform in millet fields (Kamba). This species

resembles *L. triphylla*, distinguished by its divided leaves with 3 leaflets, smaller growth habit and narrower branches. Generally uncommon but common in some localities.

FURTHER READING: Beentje, 1994; Blundell, 1987; Maundu et al., 1999; Ruffo et al., 2002.

