

# Mimusops kummel

*Sapotaceae*

Indigenous

*Bl:* Ogg

*Sh:* Lalua

*Tg:* Kummel

*Tr:* Tsada-airo

**Ecology:** A widespread African tree in Ethiopia, the Sudan and East and West Africa occurring in drier montane forest and humid highland forest, mainly along rivers and forest fringes, 800-2,000 m. In Eritrea, it grows on riverbanks, e.g. around Aibaba, Mehlab, Mensa, Tobo, Ghinda, Medhanit, Kenafena and Elabered, 1,200-1,800 m.

**Uses:** **Firewood**, charcoal, **timber** (heavy and local construction), **tool handles**, local utensils, **food** (fruit), smoke bath (like sauna).

**Description:** An evergreen tree which can reach 35 m and have a diameter of more than 1 m, the crown leafy and oval. **BARK:** Dark grey, rough and deeply grooved, **branchlets covered with red-brown hairs**. **LEAVES:** Oval to 10 cm, the tip blunt, the **midrib below hairy** and also the **leaf stalk to 1.5 cm**. **FLOWERS:** Fragrant, cream-white, 1-4 in leaf axils, on hairy stalks 2-5 cm. Flower parts in fours, rather flat star-shaped **stalks and outer calyx with brown hairs**, central ovary with silky pale hairs. **FRUIT:** A **hard berry to 2 cm**, pointed and orange-yellow, contains **one red-brown seed**.

**Propagation:** Seedlings, wildings.

**Seed:** No. of seed per kg: around 800.

**treatment:** Break up and mash the fruit to separate the seed from the outer cover.

**storage:** Stores well in air-tight containers at room temperature.

**Management:** Pruning, pollarding.

**Remarks:** The wood is hard and heavy.



fruit

