

Mimusops schimperi

Sapotaceae

Indigenous

Sh: *Calua*

Tg: *Lullae*

Tr: *Algen*

Ecology: A riverine tree distributed from Ethiopia and Somalia south to Kenya. It normally grows on river banks in humid lowland and savannah woodland and also in lower highland forests. In Eritrea, it is found on the eastern escarpment, e.g. along Mutsab river and around Maaldi and Adi-roso, 800-1,800 m.

Uses: Firewood, timber, food (fruit), shade, ornamental, riverbank stabilization.

Description: A tall, slender, evergreen tree 15-20 m with a dense spreading crown; often a clean bole to about 7 m. **BARK: Dark brown-black, very corky and deeply cracked into small rectangles.** When cut the **edge is bright pink-red and some white latex exudes.** **LEAVES: Shoots with rusty-brown hairs.** Alternate bright young leaves, become **stiff and shiny green above, pale brown below** with short soft hairs and prominent midrib, **5-8 cm long**, wide oval, tip blunt-pointed, narrowed to the base and a channelled stalk 1-2 cm. **FLOWERS: Green-yellow-white in small groups beside leaves, on long stalks 5-8 cm.** Corolla lobes in 2 series of 4, the outer calyx with pale edges giving **buds a stripy appearance.** **FRUIT: Round at first, yellow-brown, oval when mature, to 3 cm long** with persistent calyx. Fruit edible, containing one seed.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings.

Seed:

treatment: Seeds are extracted from the pulpy fruit by soaking them in cold water for 24 hours and then rubbing them over a wire mesh. The seed coat should be nicked at the distal end of the seed to encourage germination.

storage: Mature, dried seed can be stored in air-tight containers.

Management: Pollarding.

Remarks:

