

Olea europaea subsp. *africana* (*O. chrysophylla*)

Oleaceae

Indigenous

Common names: **English:** Brown olive, wild olive **Runyankore:** Murama **Sebei:** Yemit.

Ecology: Widely distributed in dry forest and on forest margins, 700-3,000 m, from Ethiopia to Southern Africa; also in India and China. In size it can range from a tall tree to a stunted shrub. Does best in good forest soil and is drought resistant once established, even in poor soils. In Uganda it occurs in Queen Elizabeth National Park, Sango Bay Forest and in montane forests.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber, furniture, panelling, poles, posts, carving, walking sticks, flooring, fruit, medicine (stem, bark), bee forage, windbreak, ornamental, tooth brushes.

Description: A handsome tree, 10-15 m, with a rounded crown and grey-green foliage, trunk often crooked and with **characteristic pockets**. **BARK:** rough dark brown, **white branchlets, dotted with breathing pores**. **LEAVES:** stiff, **narrowly oval, sharply pointed in opposite pairs, underside pale to white**, the midrib prominent, to 8 cm. **FLOWERS:** small, white, in branched heads to 5 cm. **FRUIT: oval, fleshy, to 1 cm**, purple and bitter-sweet when ripe. Seed about 1 cm long.

Propagation: Wildings, seedlings (difficult to raise).

Seed: A poor seeder. Low germination rate. No. of seed per kg: 13,000-16,000.

treatment: not necessary for fresh seed. For old seed, soak in cold water for 48 hours.

storage: seed can be stored for up to 2 months.

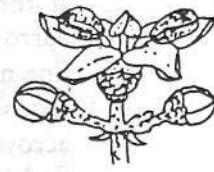
Management: Slow growing.

Remarks: Fruits do not produce oil. Can be found as pure stands on Mt. Elgon.



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enlarged flower

