

*Olea capensis* subsp. *hochstetteri* (*O. hochstetteri*) *Oleaceae*

Indigenous

Common names: Eng: East African olive; **Samb:** ngwe.

Ecology: A tree found in similar places to *Olea europaea* subsp. *africana*, 1,500-2,600 m, preferring higher-rainfall forests from Ethiopia to West and Central Africa. In Tanzania it is mainly found on the eastern slopes of Mt. Meru, but also scattered in mountain areas of Kilimanjaro, Usa, Pare and Mbulu.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber (furniture, panelling), flooring, tool handles, medicine (stems, bark).

Description: A tall tree 10-20 m, with steeply ascending branches and a small dense crown.

Dark: smooth, grey-white. LEAVES: stiff, in opposite pairs, **to 10 cm long and 3 cm wide, sharply tipped, margin wavy**, midrib pale and clear below. Underside not white (contrary to *O. africana*), with scales, **stalk to 3 cm long**. FLOWERS: small and white, mostly in heads at the tip of branchlets. FRUIT: oval, about 2 cm long, green, becoming purple with a large, hard seed inside.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings.

Seed info.: No. of seed per kg: about 3,000. Slow germination.

treatment: not necessary.

storage: seed can be stored.

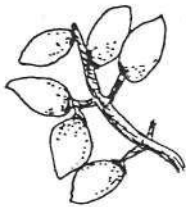
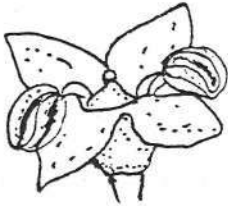
Management: Slow growing.

Remarks: Grows best in good forest soil but hardy and drought resistant in poor soils once established. The hard pale brown heartwood has an attractive grain and polishes well.

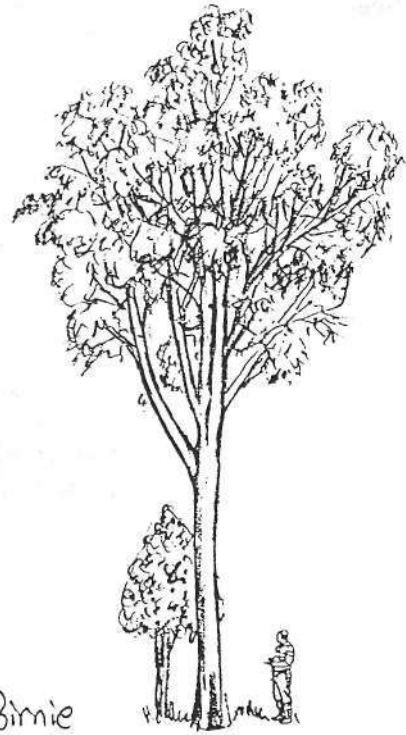
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enlarged flower



fruit



A. Bimie