

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

Indigenous

Common names: Arusha: lolyondo, olmasi; **Chag:** mchiyo, mshio, mudi; Eng: Elgon olive, loliondo; Fipa: sasi; **Iraqw:** sahati; Maasai: ololiondoi, olmasi; **Meru:** olmasi, mshiyo; **Pare:** lolyondo; Swah: loliondo.

Ecology: A tree with attractive timber found in Angola, Zambia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda in lowland rain forest to upland dry evergreen forest, 750-2,000 m. In Tanzania, found mainly on the south-eastern slopes of Mt. Meru and scattered on the slopes of Kilimanjaro.

Uses: Firewood (branches), timber (furniture), veneers, medicine (bark).

Description: A tree with a straight bole and small crown, can reach up to 25 m. BARK: pale grey to white and fissured vertically. LEAVES: opposite, large (15 x 5 cm), the **tip drawn out and pointed**, on a **stalk to 3 cm** (not white below contrary to *Olea africana*). FLOWERS: small and white, in profuse sprays to 8 cm long. FRUIT: narrow, oval and small, dark green when mature, remaining on the tree.

Propagation Seedling, wildings.

Seed info.: No. of seeds per kg: 3,100-3,500. Cracking seed coat and removing it improves germination rate. Germination in 35-90 days.

treatment: soak seed in cold water.

storage: seed can be stored up to 3 months but only if dried, stored in airtight containers and kept cool.

Management: Slow growing; lopping, pollarding, coppicing.

Remarks: The tree has a very valuable termite-resistant timber and should be well managed to prevent it becoming rare. In Tanzania it was established in plantations in Usa but today the plantation is totally destroyed by game (elephant browsing). Experience has shown that this species is tolerant to shade when young and grows best when planted alongside other trees—*Grevillea robusta* is used as a nurse tree in Tanzania.

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

