

***Pouteria adolfi-friedericii* (*Aningeria adolfi-friedericii*)**

Sapotaceae

**Indigenous****STANDARD/TRADE NAMES:** Muna, Aningeria.**COMMON NAMES:** **Kikuyu:** Muna; **Kipsigis:** Cheptatet; **Marakwet:** Seite; **Meru:** Mutunguru; **Ogiek:** Kipworbet; **Sabaot:** Lulyo, Luliondet; **Tugen:** Kipworbet, Ngecheberet, Nejobbe.

**DESCRIPTION:** A very tall tree, to 40 m, with a clear straight bole to about 16 m, topped by a rather small dense crown, mature trees buttressed at the base. **BARK:** Pale, grey-brown, smooth to lightly fissured, much white latex if cut and an unpleasant smell. Flower and leaf stalks, buds and shoots covered with golden-brown hairs. **LEAVES:** Stiff and large to 22 x 8 cm, usually smaller, dark shiny green above, hairy. Pale orange below, 10–20 pairs prominent veins, the tip pointed, on a twisted stalk to 2 cm. **FLOWERS:** Cream-green, very small, in clusters beside leaves, sepals and flower stalks brown, hairy, soon falling to the ground. **FRUIT:** Hard, green, narrow, to 4 cm, with a beak, the soft hairy skin milky but inside is one shiny brown seed to 3 cm long with a large white scar (hilum).

**ECOLOGY:** Found in Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sudan, Uganda and Kenya. Grows naturally in moist evergreen rainforests (mainly in Kakamega, Kericho, Mt Elgon, Mathews Range, Meru, Mt Kenya and Taita Hills). Prefers deep fertile soils, 1,450–2,400 m. Agroclimatic Zones I–II.

**USES:** Firewood, charcoal, timber (joinery, flooring, paneling, plywood, veneer), food (edible oil from the nut), shade.

**PROPAGATION:** Seedlings (sow seeds in pots), wildings.

**SEED:** 450 seeds per kg.

**treatment:** Not required, but seed should be sown fresh.

**storage:** Seed loses viability quickly.

**MANAGEMENT:** Slow growing; coppicing, pollarding.

**REMARKS:** This valuable timber tree has been planted in plantations. The wood is medium heavy and hard to saw but polishes well. It has also been planted in degraded montane forests in Uganda. The seed contains edible oil. Three subspecies have been identified in Kenya: subsp. *adolphi-friedericii* in western Kenya, subsp. *keniensis* in the central highlands and subsp. *usambarensis* in the coastal area.

**FURTHER READING:** Albrecht, 1993; Beentje, 1994; Bekele-Tesemma et al., 1993; Katende et al., 1995; Kokwaro, 1993; Noad and Birnie, 1989; Palgrave and Palgrave, 2002; Sommerlatte and Sommerlatte, 1990.

