

# ***Sterculia africana***

Sterculiaceae



## **Indigenous**

**Agn:** *Uriemo*

**Mjr:** *Gedem*

**Tg:** *Darle*

## **Ecology**

A common tree of Central and Southern Africa occurring in most types of woodlands and in hot dry areas on rocky hills or the fringes of woodlands where the bare-branched tree with pale bark stands out. In Ethiopia, it grows in moist flat lowland in Dry to Moist Bereha and Kolla agroclimatic zones of Welo, Shewa, Gambella, Benishangul-gumuz, Hararge, Bale, Afar and Gofa, 0-1,400 m.

## **Use**

Its gum is used as additive to medicines. The wood could be used for fuelwood and fencing, pulp, paper and cheap furniture.

## **Description**

A deciduous tree with a thick, fluted trunk, usually 5-12 m but may reach 25 m, the erect branches spreading to a rounded crown. Branches soft and brittle. **BARK:** Smooth, often shiny white, later flaking irregularly into patches to reveal a beautiful purple-green-white-brown under-bark. **LEAVES:** Crowded at the tips of branches, deeply divided with 3-5 lobes, over 10 cm across, on a stalk to 10 cm, lobes pointed. **FLOWERS:** Appear on the bare tree, sexes separate on the same tree, in branched heads to 9 cm, green-yellow sepals (no petals) joined together, 2.5 cm across with red honey-guide lines within. **FRUIT:** 1-5

woody beaked sections, boat-shaped, with short yellow hairs. One side only breaks open to set free 3-10 flat, blue-grey seeds which hang like ticks around the open edge.

## **Propagation**

Seedlings, cuttings, truncheons (large woody cuttings).

## **Seed**

About 24,000 - 28,000 seed per kg.  
Germination up to 65 % after 20 days.

**Treatment:** Not necessary.

**Storage:** Can retain viability for a couple of months at room temperature.

## **Management**

Pruning, coppicing.

