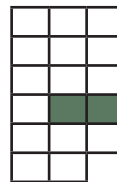


# *Strychnos innocua*

Loganiaceae



## Indigenous

**Agn:** *Adiiquala leach*

**Am:** *Inguachia, Merenz, Amburqa*

**Gmz:** *Oola*

**Sh:** *Oola*

**Sm:** *Mungule*

**Tg:** *Unguaka, Unguak-hebay*

## Ecology

Found nearby in Uganda and more rarely in Kenya, from West Africa east to Ethiopia and south to Angola, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. In Ethiopia, it is a shrubby tree which occurs in open woodland and on rocky hills in Moist and Wet Weyna Dega agroclimatic zones in Gojam, Ilubabor, Kefa, and Sidamo, 600 – 1,100 m.

## Uses

Food (fruit), firewood, local tools, flavouring (additive to local brew).

## Description

A shrub or small straight-stemmed tree, usually 3–6 m and some times up to 10 m, without spines. Branches are often twisted and branchlets hang down. **BARK:** Pale grey, smooth. Branchlets powdery grey-green to yellow-brown. **LEAVES:** In opposite pairs, widely spaced apart, tough, dull blue-green, with 3–5 main veins and clear net veining, both sides similar, oblong but wider at the rounded tip, 4–10 cm long. **FLOWERS:** 8 mm long, green-cream, 2–4 in stalked clusters beside leaves, calyx shorter than petals, a ring of white hairs in the throat. **FRUIT:** Round, with a thick woody shell, about 5–7 cm across, blue-green ripening yellow-orange, containing many seeds in pulp.

## Propagation

Seedlings and wildings

## Seed

**Treatment:** Soak the fruit in cold water for 24 hours and water for 24 hours and macerate the flesh.

**Storage:** Can store well for one year in an air-tight container kept in cold place.

## Management

Stem reduction, pruning.

## Remarks

It makes excellent firewood that burns even without drying. Seeds are loved by seed borer insects.



Photo: Patrick Maundu

