Scientific name: *Dialium guineense* Willd.

**Family:** Leguminosae.

**Distribution/conervation status:** widespread and common in dense savanna forests and gallery forests. Not assessed by the IUCN Red List.

**Common names:** Velvet-tamarind, Black tamarind (English), Chaleku, Icheku (Igbo), Awin (Yoruba), Uge (Edo)

**Fruits/seeds:** black, velvety, almost circular and flattened pod containing one (rarely two) smooth, stony, shiny-black seed embedded in dry, orange to brown, sweetly acidic and edible pulp.

**Fruiting time:** October – January.

**Seed collection:** ripe fruit fall off parent tree and can collected from the ground. Break pod/shell; lick or wash off the pulp from seeds.

**Type of seed:** orthodox.

**Sowing method:** take protective measures to protect face and hands then scarify seeds in concentrated sulphuric acid, stirring continuously for 7 minutes before sowing at a depth of 2cm.

**Sowing medium:** forest soil.

**Germination period:** 7 – 14 days.

**Germination percentage:** 60%.

**Growth/development:** seedlings require partial shade; growth is quite slow. Plant out after about 4 months. Trees take c. 4 years to start fruiting.

**Notes:** seeds should be watered at least twice a day after sowing.