

Scientific name: *Sarcocephalus latifolius* (Sm.) E.A.Bruce syn. *Nauclea latifolia* Sm.

Family: Rubiaceae.

Distribution/conservation status: locally common in moist, well-drained soils, often near watercourses, in savanna woodland. Not assessed by the IUCN Red List.

Common names: African peach (English), Odo-uburu (Igbo), Ogbesi, Ogbase (Yoruba)

Fruits/seeds: globose, brown, and pitted on the outside, containing numerous tiny pinkish-red seeds embedded in reddish-pink, strawberry-scented, edible flesh.

Fruiting time: July – September.

Seed collection: collect ripe fruits directly from the tree, mash in a large container of cold water and decant floating debris when seeds have settled at the bottom. Strain to remove seeds and dry on absorbent paper before sowing.

Type of seed: orthodox.

Sowing method: mix seeds first with sand to ensure even distribution then sow in trays, covering thinly with sand.

Sowing medium: river sand.

Germination period: 14 – 21 days.

Germination percentage: 80%.

Vegetative propagation: take stem cuttings with at least 3 nodes, remove leaves and insert in sand with one node covered. Roots and new leaves develop in 7 – 14 days.

Growth/development: seedlings and cuttings require partial shade. Seedlings are planted out 8 weeks after germination; cuttings can be planted out after 6 weeks.

Notes: seeds from baboon faeces germinate more quickly and reliably.¹

Reference:

¹ <http://tropical.theferns.info/viewtropical.php?id=Nauclea+latifolia>

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