

Cola hispida

Scientific name: *Cola hispida* Brenan & Keay

Family: Malvaceae.

Distribution and conservation status: Occurs naturally in deciduous forests and is not widely cultivated. The species is becoming locally scarce due to forest degradation and overharvesting, although it is currently classified as **Least Concern** on the IUCN Red List.

Common names: Hairy cola (English), Atewo-edun (Yoruba).

Fruit/seeds: Fruits are follicles (woody pods) that split open when mature.

Fruiting time: June-October.

Seed extraction method: Remove seeds from the pod.

Types of seed: Recalcitrant (cannot withstand drying or long storage; must be sown fresh).

Sowing method: Direct sowing into nursery polybags or seedbeds.

Sowing medium: Mixture of river sand and topsoil.

Germination Period: 14-21 days.

Germination percentage: 80% for fresh seeds (16/20 x 100)

Vegetative reproduction: Stem cuttings, grafting, or budding.

Planting: Requires partial shade when young.

Growth and development: Moderate growth rate up to 12–20 m tall, begin fruiting after 6-10 years, evergreen forest tree.

Notes: It is not commercially cultivated like kola nut species but is ecologically valuable and culturally important in local forest communities.