

Cola rostrata

Scientific name: *Cola rostrata* K. Schum.

Family: Malvaceae.

Distribution and Conservation Status: Native to southern Nigeria and West-Central Tropical Africa; a wet tropical forest tree with creamy yellow flowers and a broad crown. Least Concern due to wide distribution and absence of major threats.

Common Names: Monkey kola (English), Orobo or Orobi (Yoruba).

Fruit / Seeds: Fruit is a woody follicle capsule that splits open when mature, contains several brown, oval seeds surrounded by a whitish aril. Seeds resemble other kola seeds but are smaller and less bitter.

Fruiting Time: August–December.

Seed Extraction Method: Removed seeds from the pod.

Types of Seed: Recalcitrant with epigeal germination.

Sowing Method: Direct sowing.

Sowing Medium: Forest topsoil and composted sawdust.

Germination Period: 10-14 days.

Germination Percentage: 90% for fresh seeds (18/20 x 100)

Planting: Partial shade.

Growth and Development: Moderate growth rate; becomes established in 1–2 years, begins flowering and fruiting in 6–10 years under natural conditions, reaching up to 15 m in height.

Notes: Valuable for biodiversity conservation and traditional uses rather than commercial kola production.