

Petersianthus macrocarpus

Scientific name: *Petersianthus macrocarpus* P. Beauv.

Family: Lecythidaceae.

Distribution and conservation status: Found in moist lowland evergreen and semi-deciduous forests, often on well-drained soils. Least Concern but facing local habitat loss due to human activities.

Common names: African walnut, (English), Apará (Yoruba), Oko (Igbo).

Fruit/seeds: A large, woody, fibrous capsule, irregularly globose, up to 15–20 cm across.

Fruiting time: December– May.

Seed extraction method: Collect mature, fallen capsules before they split. Dry capsules in the sun until they dehisce naturally.

Types of seed: Orthodox with epigeal germination.

Sowing method: Direct sowing.

Sowing medium: Forest topsoil mixed with composted sawdust.

Germination Period: 14–21 days

Germination percentage: 70% (7/10 x 100)

Planting: Full shade.

Growth and development: A moderately fast-growing species under favorable site conditions, capable of reaching heights of 30–40 meters or more. Mature trees typically develop a large, straight bole measuring approximately 80–170 cm in diameter.

Notes: The genus *Petersianthus* has an unusual disjunct distribution with African and Philippine species.