

Rothmannia hispida

Scientific name: *Rothmannia hispida* K. Schum.

Family: Rubiaceae.

Distribution and conservation status: The species is primarily found in the wet tropical biome and is an erect or small tree. Classified as Least Concern as it is likely to be widespread and abundant elsewhere but locally uncommon in Nigerian forests.

Common names: Bush apple (English), Asogbodu (Yoruba), Uriohia (Igbo), Asun (Edo).

Fruit/seeds: Ellipsoid fruits, about 6-11cm long, with a persistent calyx thick pericarp containing many seeds.

Fruiting time: Fruiting generally occurs during the rainy season.

Seed extraction method: Remove seed from the pulp.

Types of seed: Orthodox with epigeal germination

Sowing method: Sow seeds directly in nursery beds or pots.

Sowing medium: River sand and composted sawdust.

Germination Period: 14-21 days

Germination percentage: 60% (30/50 x 100)

Planting: Requires partial shade at the early stage.

Growth and development: A small to medium-sized tree, moderately fast-growing under good conditions (up to 7 m), forms a dense crown with glossy opposite leaves.

Notes: Its medicinal and dye-related applications have been well documented in traditional practices, particularly across West Africa.