

Sterculia rhinopetala

Scientific name: *Sterculia rhinopetala* K. Schum.

Family: Malvaceae.

Distribution and conservation status: Found in moist semi-deciduous and evergreen forests, typically in mixed timber stands. Vulnerable due to overexploitation.

Common names: African corkwood (English), Koko Igbo (Yoruba), Okpo (Igbo).

Fruit/seeds: a cluster of 1-5 woody follicles, each 7–15 cm long, boat-shaped. Follicles split open to expose several large seeds covered with irritant hairs, seeds (like kola nuts or chestnuts).

Fruiting time: November-January.

Seed extraction method: Remove seeds from the pods.

Types of seed: Recalcitrant seeds.

Sowing method: Sow directly.

Sowing medium: Forest topsoil and composted sawdust.

Germination Period: 10 days.

Germination percentage: 90% (45/50 x 100)

Planting: Requires partial shade.

Growth and development: Moderate-fast growing in suitable soils, deciduous tree growing up to 40–50 m, classified as non-pioneer light demander.

Notes: Fresh seeds gives high germination percentage.