

Tieghemella heckelii

Scientific name: *Tieghemella heckelii* A. Chev.

Family: Sapotaceae.

Distribution and Conservation Status: Evergreen and semi-deciduous forests on moist, well-drained soils. Endangered due to overexploitation and reduced seed dispersal following declines in elephants and other seed dispersers.

Common Names: Mahogany (English), Agbabu (Yoruba), Makore (Igbo), Okwekkwe (Edo).

Fruit and Seeds: Large, ovoid-globose berry 8-12cm long, yellow when ripe, containing 1-3 seeds surrounded by sticky, fresh pulp.

Fruiting Time: June – October.

Seed Extraction Method: Remove seeds from the pulp.

Types of Seed: Recalcitrant with epigeal germination.

Sowing Method: Direct sowing.

Sowing Medium: Mix forest topsoil with composted sawdust.

Germination Period: 14-21 days

Germination Percentage: 50% ($2/4 \times 100$)

Planting: Partial shade in early stages.

Growth and Development: Seedlings grow about 0.5–1 m per year under good conditions, then slows as strong taproot develops, trees can reach up to 45 m tall and 1–2 m in diameter.

Notes: Conservation efforts focus on planting, sustainable harvesting and forest protection given its endangered status.