

Scientific name: *Bauhinia thonningii* Schum. Syn. *Piliostigma thonningii* (Schum.) Milne-Redh.

Family: Leguminosae.

Distribution/conservation status: occurs in savanna areas and derived savanna in the forest zone. Not assessed by the IUCN red list.

Common names: Camel's foot (English), Abafe (Yoruba), Kalgoo (Hausa), Okpachu (Igbo).

Fruits/seeds: brown, woody, linear-oblong pod containing many dark brown, ellipsoid seeds.

Fruiting time: December – February.

Seed collection: fruits split open when ripe and seeds are easily collected under and around the parent tree.

Type of seed: orthodox.

Sowing method: take safety precautions to protect hands and face then scarify in sulphuric acid for 7 minutes, stirring constantly. Rinse and drain before sowing in trays or pots at a depth of 1 – 2cm.

Sowing medium: forest soil.

Germination period: 10 – 14 days.

Germination percentage: 80 – 90%.

Growth/development: seedlings require full sun and can be planted out after 6 weeks. Young trees begin to flower and fruit after 4 – 5 years.