

Scientific name: *Brachystegia nigerica* Hoyle & A.P.D. Jones.

Family: Leguminosae.

Distribution/conservation status: endemic to wetter areas of forest in southern Nigeria where trees may be abundant in small localised populations. Vulnerable (VU) due to deforestation and clearance for agriculture.

Common names: Okwen (Edo), Agunri, Eku (Yoruba), Achi (Igbo)

Fruits/seeds: large purplish-brown to black, oblong flat pod containing on average four dark brown, disk-shaped seeds.

Fruiting time: October - December, June.

Seed collection: fruits explode/rupture to release seeds under or around the tree. **Type of seed:** recalcitrant.

Sowing method: sow at a depth of 1 - 2cm with seed laid flat in the soil.

Sowing medium: forest soil.

Germination period: 14 - 21 days.

Germination percentage: 55 - 60%

Growth/development: transplant seedlings when they reach a height of at least 1m.

Notes: Seeds are heavily predated. Soaking seeds in water for 1 day may increase germination rate. Wildlings may be found along trails in forest areas where there are parent trees, indicating that seedlings respond well to higher light levels.