

Scientific name: *Hildegardia barteri* (Mast.) Kosterm.

Family: Malvaceae.

Distribution/conservation status: widely distributed, occurring mainly on rocky terrain and hills in drier parts of lowland rainforest. Not assessed by the IUCN red list.

Common names: Hildegardia (English), Ufuku, Shishi (Igbo), Eso, Okurugbedu (Yoruba).

Fruits/seeds: clusters of reddish-gold, ellipsoid, inflated pods, each containing a single seed.

Fruiting time: January - February.

Seed collection: ripe fruits are easily collected from lower branches of trees. Press the fruit between finger and thumb to extract the seed.

Type of seed: recalcitrant.

Sowing method: sow seeds promptly at a depth of 1 – 2cm.

Sowing medium: cured saw dust

Germination period: 10 – 14 days.

Germination percentage: 80%.

Growth/development: seedlings require good drainage and direct sunlight. Plant out 4 weeks after germination, choosing a well-drained, open position. Young trees fruit for the first time after 2 – 3 years.

Notes: leaves of seedlings are prone to attack by insects especially when growing under shade. Observe fruits closely and collect as soon as they ripen as they are heavily predated.