**Scientific Name:** Holarrhena floribunda (G.Don) T.Durand & Schinz.

**Family:** Apocynaceae.

**Distribution/conservation status:** widely distributed on drier ground in the forest zone and along watercourses in savanna areas. Not assessed by the IUCN Red List.

**Common Names:** False rubber tree (English), Ako-ire (Yoruba), Gamonsauwa (Hausa)

**Fruits/seeds:** long, brown, slender, pendulous pods, produced in pairs and containing numerous narrowly oblong seeds, each with a tuft of golden-brown hairs.

**Fruiting time:** December – January.

**Seed collection:** collect pods before they are fully ripe and place on paper in a warm dry place until they split open and release seeds. If left to open on the tree, most seeds will be dispersed at some distance by the wind.

**Type of seed:** recalcitrant.

**Sowing method:** remove tufts of hairs from seeds and sow flat at a depth of 2cm.

**Sowing medium:** equal parts forest top soil and cured sawdust.

**Germination period:** 19 days.

**Germination percentage:** 50%.

**Growth/development:** seedlings require partial shade.

**Notes:** fruits mature within a month or two after flowering but split open only after 3 – 4 months as rains begin. Fresh seeds should be sown immediately to ensure viability. The leaves are prone to attack by larvae of the Saturniid butterflies *Imbrasia epimethea* and *Bunaea alcinoe*, and may be severely defoliated.