

Scientific name: *Pentaclethra macrophylla* Benth.

Family: Leguminosae.

Distribution/conservation status: occurs in both primary and secondary forests, especially near watercourses. Not been assessed by the IUCN red list.

Common names: African oil bean, Congo acacia (English), Ugba, Ogba (Igbo), Apará, Apawa (Yoruba), Okpágha, Akpágha (Edo).

Fruits/seeds: dark brown, linear-oblong pod, tapering at the base and rounded at the apex, enclosing 5 – 8 large, smooth, brown, flattened seeds.

Fruiting time: all year but mainly September – December.

Seed collection: ripe fruits open explosively, hurling pods and seeds to the ground under and around parent tree. Check seeds for insect damage and discard any with small holes.

Type of seed: recalcitrant.

Sowing method: soak seeds for 24 hours before sowing flat in pots at a depth of 4cm.

Sowing medium: topsoil.

Germination period: 25 – 30 days.

Germination percentage: 66%.

Growth/development: seedlings require deep shade; growth is fast and they can be planted out 8 weeks after germinating.

Notes: sow seeds promptly to ensure viability.