

**Scientific Name:** *Triplochiton scleroxylon* K. Schum.

**Family:** Malvaceae.

**Distribution/conservation status:** widely distributed in forest and transition zones, both in evergreen and semi-deciduous rainforest, secondary and disturbed forests where it is often gregarious in clearings. Though assessed as **LC** by the IUCN Red List, it is declining due to over-exploitation for timber and forest clearance.

**Common Names:** African whitewood (English), Okpobo (Igbo), Arere (Yoruba), Obeche (Edo).

**Fruits/seeds:** clusters of 1-5 brown, winged carpels.

**Fruiting time:** February – March but not annually.

**Seed collection:** fruits are wind-dispersed but many fall under and around the parent tree where they are easily collected. Remove wing to extract seed.

**Type of seed:** recalcitrant.

**Sowing method:** sow in nursery pots covering with a thin layer of soil.

**Sowing medium:** forest soil.

**Germination period:** 7 – 14 days.

**Germination percentage:** 60%.

**Growth and development:** seedlings require shade and frequent watering. Growth is quite fast and seedlings can be planted out 8 weeks after germination.

**Notes:** examine fruits carefully for tiny holes, indicating insect damage which prevents germination. They are attacked by fruit-boring weevil *Apion ghanaensis* and by pathogens such as smut fungus *Mycosyrinx* sp. Crickets and grasshoppers can cause severe damage to seedlings. Larvae of the silk moth *Anaphe venata* may defoliate trees.