

Strombosia pustulata

Scientific name: *Strombosia pustulata* (Oliv.).

Common name: Itako (Yoruba), Ubelu (Igbo), Otingbo (Edo).

Family: Strombosiaceae.

Distribution and conservation status: occurs at low altitudes in evergreen and moist semi-deciduous forests, though commonly found only in undisturbed areas; **LC** but habitat loss and exploitation are frequent in its area of distribution.

Fruits/ seeds: fruits are globular drupes up to 3 cm in diameter, purplish black when ripe, each enclosed in a fleshy calyx. Each fruit contains a single seed with a wrinkled surface.

Fruiting time: October – December.

Seed extraction method: remove the enclosed fleshy calyx from its fruit.

Type of seed: recalcitrant with epigeal germination.

Sowing method: direct sowing.

Sowing medium: forest top soil.

Germination period: 3 months.

Germination percentage: 30%.

Planting: full shade.

Growth development: slow-growing and shade-loving, but seedlings and saplings reportedly grow well in small canopy gaps.

Notes: Do not delay the collection of its fruits, which are relished by hornbills, rodents, duikers, and elephants that in turn aid seed dispersal.