Ocotea kenyensis

Lauraceae

Indigenous

Kf: Majo, Najo Or: Derersa, Gigicha

Sd: Soecho

Ecology

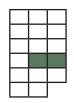
A very common intermediate and upperstorey tree, especially in Sidamo region. Also found in humid and semi-humid highland evergreen forests in Moist and Wet Weyna Dega agroclimatic zones of Wolega, Sidamo, Ilubabor, Kefa, Gamo Gofa and Bale, 1,500-2,600 m.

Uses

Firewood, timber (furniture, panelling, flooring), carvings, medicine (roots, bark).

Description

An evergreen much-branched tree, about 10 m, mature trees reaching 25-30 m, the bole straight and 80 cm wide at the base. BARK: Grey when young, then dark red-brown and rough, flaking into large pieces. LEAVES: Alternate, large oval or quite narrow, about 7-14 cm long, without hairs, young leaves shiny red, later leathery, shiny green, edge strongly wavy, tip blunt, narrowed at the base to a short, flexible stalk, 8-10 pairs uneven side veins only clear when dried. FLOWERS: Male and female separate, a few small flowers on a hairy stalk, about 5 cm, beside leaves, green-white-yellow. FRUIT: Long oval, green, to 2 cm, contining 1 seed, one-third of fruit inside a cup-like bract, roughly hairy.



Propagation

Seedlings.

Seed

The tree produces plenty of seed, but the fruit may be attacked by insects.

Treatment: Not necessary.

Storage: Sow immediately after extraction. Storage in moist sawdust can prolong the lifespan of the seed a little.

Management

Fast growing, coppicing.

Remarks

Bark, leaves and wood are fragrant and aromatic but unlike camphor. Although not termite resistant, the timber is of high quality — one of the best for furniture and carving. The tree can best be propagated by use of root suckers. Birds eat the fruit.





