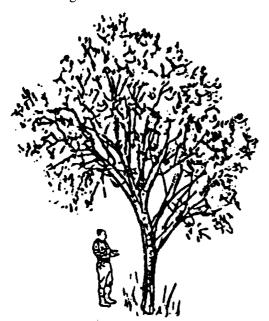
Ozoroa insignis subsp. reticulata (Heeria reticulata)

Anacardiaceae

Indigenous

- Соммол NAMES: Boran: Garri; Digo: Msangasanga; English: Ozoroa; Kamba: Mugadi; Kipsigis: Lemejwet; Luhya (Bukusu): Kumwandanda; Luo: Achak, Madhari, Nyandumira, Wadhare; Maasai: Olokunonoi; Marakwet: Mutungwa; Meru: Mutira nkong'u; Ogiek: Longononoi; Pokot: Kromwa; Sabaot: Chepkitowiondet; Samburu: Lokononoi; Swahili: Mwaalika; Taita: Mkalamke; Tugen: Mutungwa; Turkana: Lopsok orongole.
- **DESCRIPTION:** A small, semi-deciduous shrub or tree to 14 m, the bole often twisted, with a light rounded crown. BARK: Grey, corky, widely grooved and scaly, exuding drops of creamy resin if cut. Branchlets covered with yellow hairs. LEAVES: Often 3 together, leathery, very variable, long, oval 5–17 cm, dull green above, but silvery hairy below, the veins clearly parallel, the edge rolled under, on a stalk to 2.5 cm. FLOWERS: Small cream-white in hairy sprays to 17 cm. FRUIT: Small, red, bean-shaped, flattened, shiny black when ripe, on branched sprays, one very hard seed inside.
- EcoLogy: Widely distributed from southern Ethiopia to South Africa; 0–2,200 m, occasionally even higher. It grows all over Kenya in wooded grassland and woodland, often in rocky places and on raised and well-drained ground. Agroclimatic Zones II–IV. Flowers in March-May and seeds in July–August in Bungoma.
- USES: Firewood, charcoal, timber, furniture, posts, construction material for granaries, wood for ox-cart wheels, medicine (bark, root and twigs), shade, gum (fruit).
- **PROPAGATION:** Direct sowing at site and shaded. Produces root suckers.
- SEED: Collected from the tree or as dry fruit from the ground. The species is a prolific seeder. **treatment:** Not required. **storage:** Best to use fresh seed.
- MANAGEMENT: Coppicing, pollarding.
- **REMARKS:** The dark red wood is easy to work, tough, durable and termite resistant. Sticks are used by the Pokot to smoke milk gourds.



O. obovata (Boni: Kedula, Bangoe; Digo: Msalasanga, Giriama: Mukuikwaiyu, Swahili: Mwaalika) is a shrubby tree similar to *O. insignis,* found in coastal bushland, 0–300 m. The genus *Ozoroa* has a few dozen species found in tropical Africa.

FURTHER READING: Backes and Ahenda, 1998; Beentje, 1994; Bein et al., 1996; Katende et al., 1995; Kokwaro, 1993; Mbuya et al., 1994; Noad and Birnie, 1989; Palgrave and Palgrave, 2002; Storrs, 1979.



