

LOCAL NAMES

English (stool wood, pattern wood, alstonia); French (emien, alstonie); Igbo (egbu-ora)

BOTANIC DESCRIPTION

Alstonia congensis is a tall forest tree reaching 30 m high; bole cylindrical, fluted at the base or columnar up to 7m. Bark rough with large solitary lenticels. Slash yellow-brown, thin abundant white latex.

Leaves simple, in whorls, obovate or spatulate, up to 12 cm long; apex rounded, often apiculate or sometimes emarginate; venation conspicuous.

Inflorescence glabrous and capitate.

Fruit a black dehiscent follicle, long and narrow, up to 40 cm long.

Seeds numerous, hairy. *Alstonia congensis* is considered endangered in its native range.

The specific epithet refers to Congo, Africa where specimens for scientific identification of the species were first collected.

BIOLOGY

A. congensis is a hermaphroditic tree with wind dispersed seeds.

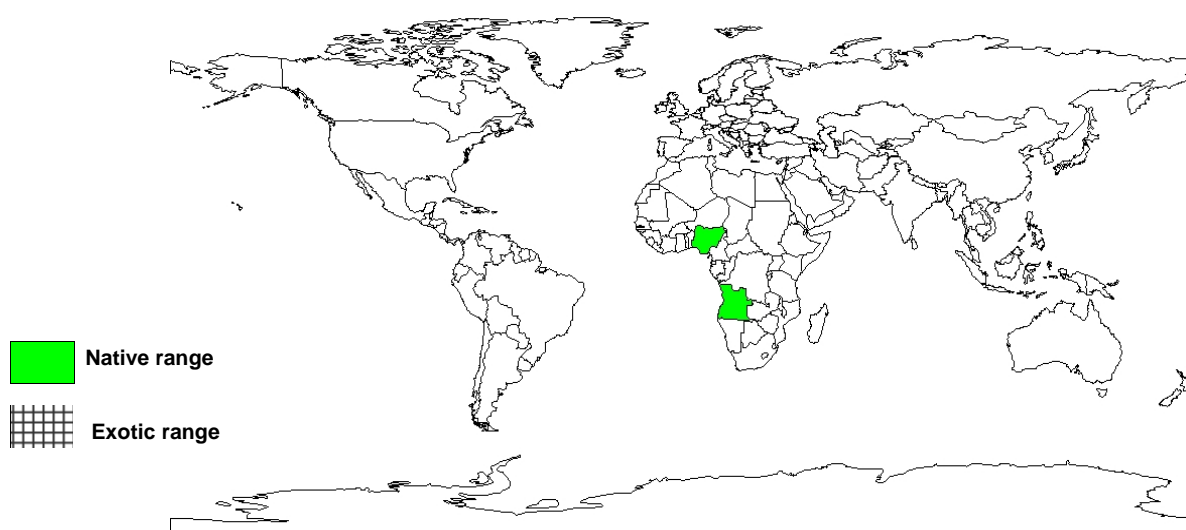
ECOLOGY

A. congensis is an evergreen rainforest tree occurring in S. Nigeria and extending to Democratic Republic of Congo and Angola. *A. congensis* is usually associated with *Elaeis guineensis*, *Kolobopetalum chevalieri*, *Dioscorea preusii*, *Cnestis hirsutus*, *Tabernaemontana crassa* and *Funtumia africana* (*Tabernaemontano-Elaeetum guineensis typicum*).

DOCUMENTED SPECIES DISTRIBUTION

Native: Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria

Exotic:



The map above shows countries where the species has been planted. It does neither suggest that the species can be planted in every ecological zone within that country, nor that the species can not be planted in other countries than those depicted. Since some tree species are invasive, you need to follow biosafety procedures that apply to your planting site.

PRODUCTS

Medicine: About 15 alkaloids have been isolated from the root bark, stem bark and leaves of this tree with similar uses as *A. boonei* as a diuretic and hypotensive.

SERVICES

Shade or shelter: The dense canopy of *A. congensis* makes it a good shade tree.

Ornamental: Grown as a woody ornamental tree in Kinshasa, Zaire.

FURTHER READNG

Caron C et al. 1989. Alkaloids from *Alstonia congensis*. *Phytochemistry*. 28(4): 1241-1244.

Kunkel G. 1965. The trees of Liberia: German Forestry Commission to Liberia Report No.3. BLV.

Oni O et al. 1993. Conservation and vegetative propagation of the genetic resources of some endangered medicinal woody plants of Nigeria. (WOCMAP) *Acta-Horticulturae*. 331: 269-274.

SUGGESTED CITATION

Orwa C, A Mutua, Kindt R , Jamnadass R, S Anthony. 2009 *Agroforestry Database:a tree reference and selection guide* version 4.0 (<http://www.worldagroforestry.org/sites/treedbs/treedatabases.asp>)