

LOCAL NAMES

English (schefflera)

BOTANIC DESCRIPTION

Schefflera volkensii is a scandent or tall tree up to 24-30 m tall. Sometimes an epiphyte upon other trees.

Leaf petiole up to 13(-17) cm x 3.8 mm diameter, sometimes somewhat expanded at base, glabrous or sparsely hairy at tip. Leaflets 4-7 generally coriaceous, narrowly obovate or elliptic, oblanceolate or obovate, up to 15 cm long by 7 cm wide, acute to rounded, slightly retuse at apex, with a broadly to narrowly cuneate base, entire to very slightly repand, sometimes slightly crisped margins, glabrous; petiolules up to 2.8 cm long x 1.9 mm diameter. Stipules sheath-like, up to about 1.4 cm long.

Flowers sessile, up to 12-20; together. Inflorescence an extended or compressed raceme of bracteate racemes of small pedunculate with or without globular capitula up to 7 mm diameter when flowers in bud; primary branches up to 23 cm long x 4(-5.5) mm diameter, generally sparsely lenticillate; secondary branches 5-17 mm long, sometimes lenticellate, borne in the axils of ovate to oblate bracts up to 4 mm long.

Fruits minutely puberulous or glabrous, up to 5.5 mm long and 4-5 cm in diameter. The generic name commemorates G. Scheffler, a German botanical collector in Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi around 1900.

ECOLOGY

S. volkensii is found in wet or dry upland forest, in *Hagenia abyssinica* woodland associated with *Hypericum revolutum*, *Afrocrania volkensii* and *Erica arborea*, or in the bamboo (*Arundinaria alpina*) zone.

BIOPHYSICAL LIMITS

Altitude: 1 500-3 230 m

DOCUMENTED SPECIES DISTRIBUTION

Native: Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda

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

Fuel: *S. volkensii* provides fuelwood of good quality.

Timber: The wood can be used for a number of general purposes.

Gum or resin: *S. volkensii* yields a gum used medicinally.

Medicine: The resin is mixed with honey and used as remedy for coughs, lung complications and colds in Kenya.

SERVICES

Erosion control: *S. volkensii* offers protection to surrounding soil from water erosion.

Shade or shelter: Provides light shade.

Soil improver: The leaf litter is good mulching material.

Ornamental: *S. volkensii* has a majestic form and can beautifully grace gardens and avenues.

Intercropping: Can be grown with crops since its high crown lets in sunlight.

TREE MANAGEMENT

The tree needs support to grow straight.

GERMPLASM MANAGEMENT

Store seeds in sealed containers in cool places.

FURTHER READNG

Beentje HJ. 1994. Kenya trees, shrubs and lianas. National Museums of Kenya.

Lisanework N and Mesfin T. 1989. An ecological study of the vegetation of the Hareenna Forest, Bale, Ethiopia. *Sinet. Ethiopian Journal of Science.* 12(1): 63-93.

Tennant JR. 1968. Araliaceae. In: *Flora of Tropical East Africa.* AA Balkema, Rotterdam.

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>)