Podocarpus falcatus (P. gracilior)   *Podocarpaceae*

Indigenous

Common names:	**Arusha:** olpiripiri, olviriviri; **Chag:** mvavavi; Eng: East African yellow wood, podo; **Iraqw.** dukmo, nokim; Meru: owiriwiri; **Rangi:** mpoda, mponde; **Samb:** mse mawe.
Ecology:	Podocarp trees are mainly found in the southern hemisphere. They are conifers, more closely related to Juniperus than to pines. The fruits, technically cones, look more like large berries on a fat stalk *(podocarpus* = footed stalk). They are also known as yellow-woods. *P. falcatus* is a large tree of upland rainforest in a restricted range, 1,500-2,400 m. In Tanzania it occurs on Mt. Kilimanjaro, the Usambaras and at Mbulu.
Uses:	Firewood, timber (furniture, boxes, plywood, panels), poles, medicine (bark), shade, ornamental.
Description:	An evergreen tree with a straight bole, to 25 **m** or more. BARK: grey to **dark brown, cracking and scaling** into irregular rectangles. LEAVES: narrow, **shiny dark green, 2-5 cm,** gradually tapering. Young leaves are larger and **brighter giving a green flush.** CONES: 1-3 male catkins, **yellow-brown about 2 cm,** female cones hard, **ovoid to *2* cm,** very slow to develop, **green with dull purple bloom,** outer shell thin but inner flesh eaten by monkeys and birds.
Propagation:	Seedlings, wildings.
Seed info.:	No. of seeds per kg 500-1,100. Ideally seeds germinate in 50-90 days at an average rate of 30%. Purple-brown fruits can be shaken down. Remove the pulp by soaking **in water** then rub or float out debris.
treatment:	crack the hard seed coat before sowing and remove the outer seed coat—not necessary when stored for a long time.
storage:	seed can be stored for up to two years.
Management:	Slow growing, hardy once established.
Remarks:	The species is now rare due to over-exploitation. The light wood is of high quality and can be used for furniture and panelling. But it needs preservatives and careful seasoning to prevent warping.

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