

Indigenous

Trade name: Scented guarea.

Common names: **English:** Nigerian pearwood, pink African cedar, pink mahogany.

Ecology: A tree of lowland rain forest extending from Sierra Leone and Gabon east to Uganda. One of two *Guarea* in Uganda, this species is fairly rare, thinly but widely distributed in the country. It is found in Budongo, Mabira, West Mengo and Bugoma forests. Mature trees are uncommon but many young trees can be found in Budongo and Mabira.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber.

Description: A semi-deciduous tree to 45 m with a cylindrical trunk to a dense rounded crown, branches drooping. The bole may be fluted above and may have **short, blunt and heavy buttresses which spread widely along the ground**. Bole to 1 m diameter. **BARK: smooth, silver-grey, thin and flaking in moderate-sized pieces to leave shell-shaped depressions with concentric rings of lenticels.** When cut the bark has a **strong smell of cedar**. **LEAVES:** usually **even pinnate, to 20 cm long** with about 8 leaflets, each one long oval, long pointed to 20 cm, often one-sided, a characteristic **stalk to 4 cm, deeply grooved with relatively wide wings**, the upper surface is hairy. Trees conspicuous when **new leaves appear, pink-brown** in colour. **FLOWERS:** small, yellow-green, fragrant on many erect branchlets, 5-10 cm, 5 free petals. **FRUIT: a rounded capsule 5.5 cm across, smooth and orange, becoming darker and opening into 5 leathery sections, 3-5 ovoid seeds to 4 cm long are black but completely covered by a thin orange fleshy aril.**

Propagation: Seedlings (sow seed in pots), wildings.

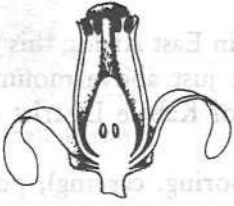
Seed: It is easy to find the seed on the ground because of the dark orange aril and because, unlike *Entandophragma*, the seeds fall directly under the mother tree,

treatment: soak in cold water for 12 hours before sowing,

storage: the seed is badly attacked by insects. Store in sealed containers in a cool place and add ash to reduce insect damage.

Management: Pollarding.

Remarks: This species has been undervalued. It is difficult for the layman to differentiate *Guarea cedrata* from *Entandophragma angolense* and it has been harvested under the name of the latter and is becoming extremely rare. The high-grade pink timber resembles that of African mahogany (*Khaya*) in colour and texture and is excellent for interior work and fancy goods. It is rated very resistant to fungi and relatively resistant to termites. Can be planted in pure stands or intercropped with cocoa, coffee or bananas, for example. Birds and animals eat the seeds.



half flower

flowering branch



fruit capsule

