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Hagenia abyssinica

[Synonyms : *Banksia abyssinica*, *Brayera abyssinica*, *Brayera anthelmintica*]

KOUSSO is a shrub or tree. Native to north-eastern Ethiopia, and to Tanzania and Kenya, it has small, greenish changing to reddish-purple flowers.

It is also known as Cossoo, *Cusso* (Hindi), *Hagenia*, *Kamonde* (Kikuyu), Kooso, Koso, Kosso (English, Ethiopian), Kuso, Kusso, and *Muthithiku* (Kikuyu).

Abyssinica means ‘of or from Ethiopia (Abyssinia)’.

The wood is used on a commercial basis today for cabinetmaking.

Medicinally, koussou flowers are used to treat intestinal worms (particularly tapeworms). The extracted drug is called *Brayera* after a French physician, a Monsieur Brayer who promoted it in Istanbul. Locally the bark is also used as a remedy for diarrhoea.