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*Lophira alata*

[Synonyms : *Lophira africana*, *Lophira africana* var. *procera*, *Lophira barteri*, *Lophira lanceolata*, *Lophira macrophylla*, *Lophira procera*, *Lophira simplex*, *Lophira spatulata*, *Lophira tholloni*]

**EKKI** is a tree. Native to west Africa it has white (occasionally yellow) flowers that have many yellow stamens and a fragrant musky smell.

It is also known as *Aba* (Nigerian), African oak, *Bakundu* (Cameroonian), *Bongossi* (Cameroonian), Dwarf ironwood, *Endwi* (Sierra Leone), *Esore* (Ivorian), Ironwood, *Kaku* (Twi), Meni oil tree, Niam tree, and Red ironwood tree.

Kaku oil is extracted from the seeds.

*Alata* is derived from Latin *ala* (wing) meaning ‘winged’.

Viewed by authorities as superior to reinforced concrete eg. for piling in dams, this is the wood that was used to make the track for the Paris Metro.

The edible oil extracted from the seeds is used not only for cooking but also in hair-oil and as an ingredient in soap.

The hard and heavy wood has provided fuel, particularly in mines. Today on a commercial scale the durable, white-flecked, reddish-brown wood is also used for dock construction, bridges and flooring, as well as for making railway sleepers and furniture.