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*Piptadeniastrum africanum*

[Synonyms : *Piptadenia africana*]

**DAHOMA** (English and Ghanaian) is a deciduous tree. Native to West Africa it has many tiny, creamy-white fading to orange-brown flowers with long stamens.

It is also known as *Agboin* (Nigerian), *Atui* (Cameroonian), *Bokungu* (Zairean), *Dabéma* (Ivorian), *Ekhimi* (Nigerian), *Mbeli* (Liberian), *Mpewere* (Ugandan), and *Mugete* (Ugandan).

The wood has an unpleasant smell when first cut (which is said to have been sufficiently strong to preclude its use for building interiors). The tree is multi-buttressed, each buttress being thin and emerging from 15 ft. up the trunk. These buttresses form 'rooms' that have long provided storage space for farm produce.

Warning – sawdust may cause oral and skin irritation.

*Africanum* means 'of or from Africa'.

The strong, durable, light to golden-brown wood (which has attractively ribbon-figured marking) has been used for heavy construction-work, buildings, bridges, joinery and flooring – and, during the Second World War, for making railway sleepers too.

For authorities on south-eastern Asia, the tree growing in that region is considered to be a source of timber.

Medicinally, local herbalists have used the bark for treatments.