

*Casearia battiscombei*

Flacourtiaceae

**Indigenous**

**COMMON NAMES:** **Kikuyu:** Muirongi; **Luhya:** Namasinzi; **Marakwet:** Liss; **Meru:** Munogo; **Nandi:** Cheptokoriet, Chepchabeyet; **Ogiek:** Chepcharaiyet; **Pokot:** Sigikwa; **Samburu:** Itumbach; **Sabaot:** Seruwa, Seruondet.

**DESCRIPTION:** A slender tall, forest tree to 30 m with straight bole, slightly buttressed at the base. The branches are arranged in layers, horizontal or drooping. **BARK:** Black, smooth or rough. **LEAVES:** Dark green, shiny above, occasionally toothed, oblong, **base asymmetric**, rounded or slightly heart-shaped, up to 22 cm x 7 cm wide, arranged in 2 alternate rows. **FLOWERS:** Yellow-green, in clusters in leaf axils, very small. Petals absent. **FRUIT:** A capsule with a sharp tip, up to 2 cm long, yellow to orange.

**ECOLOGY:** Upland moist forests, 1,350–2,400 m. Agroclimatic Zones I–II.

**USES:** Timber.

**SEED:** Seedlings.

**REMARKS:** *C. gladiiformis* is a smaller tree but resembles the main species in many respects. It is found in moist forests of Kakamega and the south coast. The species is also a source of timber.

**FURTHER READING:** Beentje, 1994; Palgrave and Palgrave, 2002.

