

## *Turraea kimbozensis* Cheek

Meliaceae

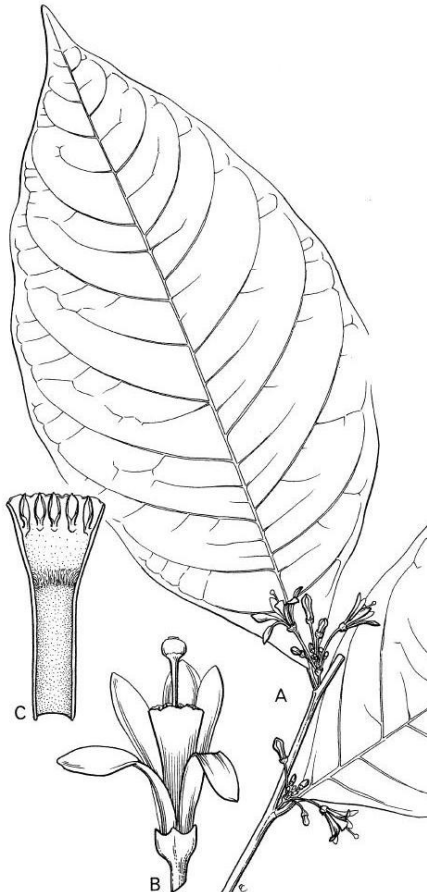
### Pilipili pori

Status global: **Endemic (EN)** Status local: **Fairly common**

An endemic small shrub restricted to Kimboza that is fairly common under canopy. It is threatened with extinction.

### Striking identification features

- 1-2 drooping, yellow fruits, when opening they reveals black seeds with bright red aril
- sparsely branched shrub



### Description

**Stature:** a shrub, very sparsely branched.

**Size:** 1-2 m tall, stems 2-3.5 mm thick.

**Bark:** smooth, pale grey-brown, leaf scars prominent (c. 2 mm high, 3mm wide).

**Leaves:** alternate, simple (blade up to 21 × 10 cm), dark green above, lighter below.

**Flower:** axillary inflorescence at base of leaf stalk, with 7-15 flowers opening sequentially, white petals (1 cm long).

**Fruit:** yellow, 1-2 per infructescence, drooping, the 5(-6) valves (to 2-5 cm wide) open and recurve upwards to reveal two superimposed circular layers of 5(-6) seeds.

**Seed:** (8 x 4-5 mm); black, glossy, mostly enveloped in a layer of red fleshy tissue.

**Note:** the local name means 'wild pepper'.



**Status and distribution:** This species is endemic to Kimboza, first collected in 1983 and described in 1989. and has a very limited distribution. It has been assessed as Threatened [B1ab(iii) + B2ab(iii)]. It was previously reported as *Turraea vogelioides* Bagshw & Baker F., a species found much further West. **Habitat requirements:** It is a fairly common plant inside and around Kimboza, but only found under canopy, including in secondary forest. It is very conspicuous when bearing fruits (May-June-July-August). Recorded at altitudes between and asl.

**Phenology:** Flowering and fruiting in April 1983 and 1988, and fruiting in June 1983. Fruits maturing in May 2023 and June 2022 and fully mature at the end of August 2023.

**Reproduction:**

**Uses in East Africa:** -

**Local uses:** None are known.



### Sources and further information

**Botanical description:** Cheek (1989), Styles & White (1991)

**Herbarium specimens:**

Bidgood *et al.* 1240 (K,EA,DSM,FHO), 1988-04-21, type

Mwasumbi *et al.* 12480, (DSM,K), 1983-04-02

Mwasumbi *et al.* 12482, (DSM,K), 1983-04-02

Polhill *et al.* 4906 (DSM,K), 1983-06-

Luke 7651 (EA), 2001-09-19

Luke 8794 (EA,K,MO,NHT), 2002-06-13

Kayombo 5352 (EA,K,MO,NHT), 2006-03-20

Cheek, M. (1989) A new species of *Turraea* (Meliaceae) from Tanzania. Kew Bull. 44, 465-468.

Styles, B.T. & White, F. (1991) Meliaceae. In Polhill, R.M. (Ed.) Flora of Tropical East Africa. A.A. Balkema, Rotterdam.