

***Premna lignumvitae***  
(Verbenaceae)

- Common name:** Lignumvitae.
- Localities:** Kholo Creek, Rafting Ground, Upper Brookfield.
- Growth form:** An attractive, spreading tree to 40 m tall, with channelled or fluted buttresses.
- Foliage:** Leaves are simple, broadest about the mid-point and tapering to each end, up to 15 cm long, 4.5 cm wide, shiny on the upper surface only (leaves on young trees are often lobed or angled).
- Flowers and fruit:** Flowers are small, pink and hairy, arranged in short axillary inflorescences, appearing through most of the year. They are followed by cherry-like red and fleshy fruit, about 1 cm in diameter.
- Habitat:** Lignumvitae is native to subtropical and dry rainforest.
- Propagation and Management:** Seeds are very slow to germinate, sometimes taking as long as two years. Lignumvitae is a tree which can grow quite rapidly in our district; it is adapted to fertile and moderately fertile soils.
- General:** Lignumvitae has a very hard and durable timber. It is a source of food for a number of fruit-eating birds.

*Premna lignum vitae*

