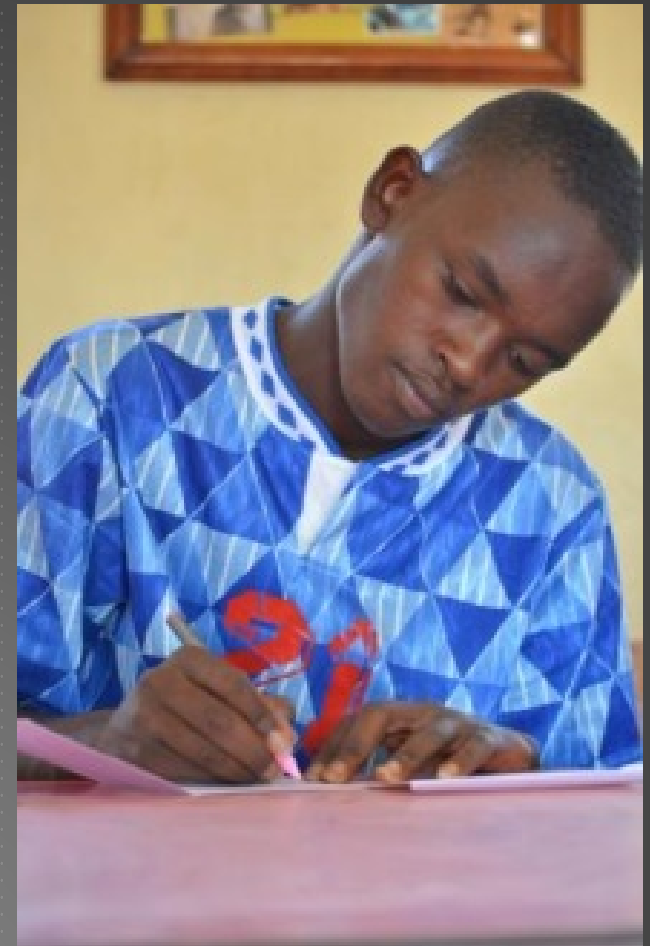
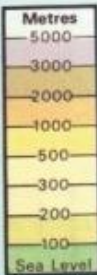
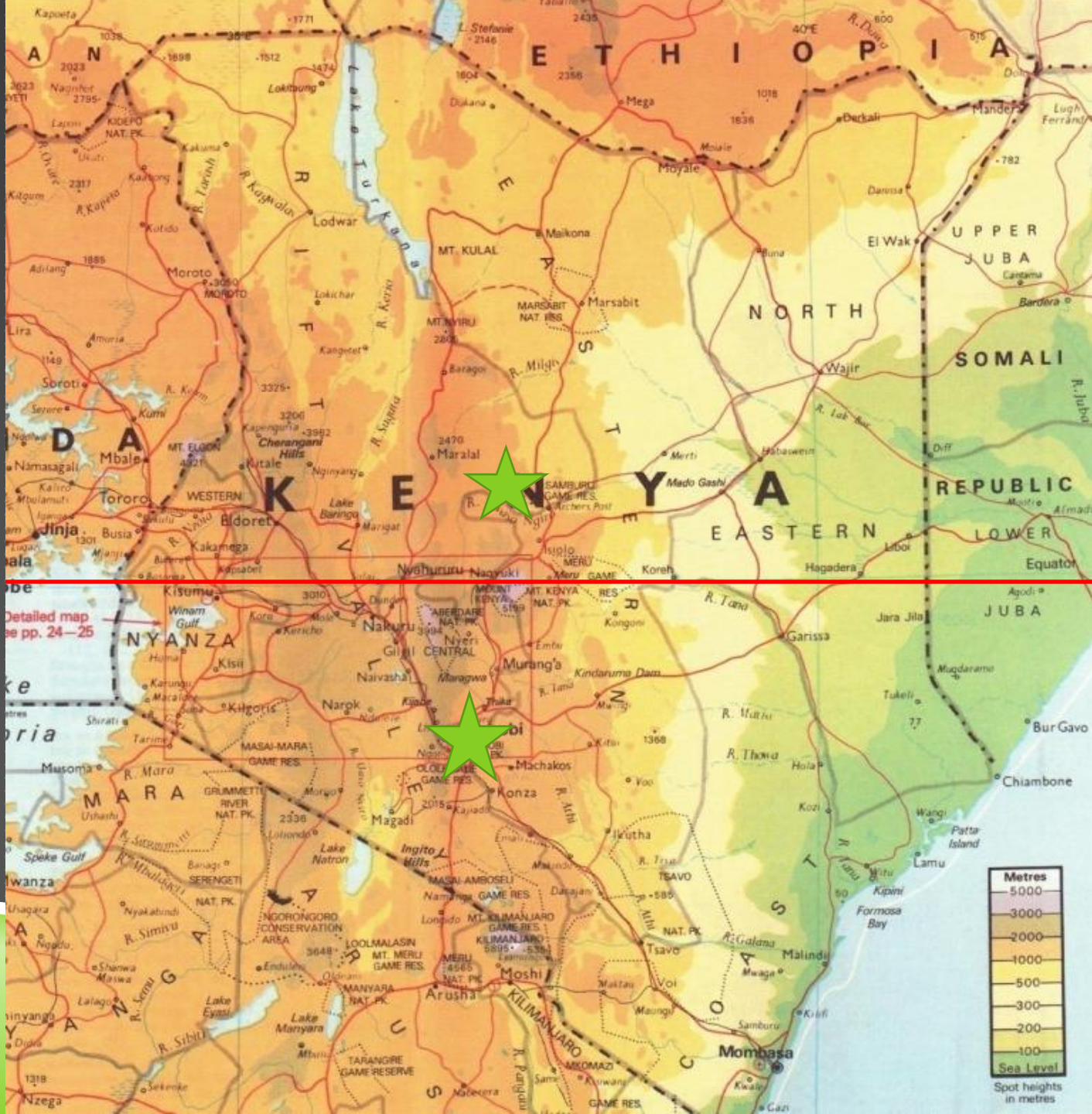


PASTORALIST OR PUPIL:  
SAMBURU BUSH SCHOOL  
PROGRAM, KENYA



BRETT BRUYERE, PH.D  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



Spot heights in metres

Detailed map  
see pp. 24–25









# University of Eldore





*“Who will be like this one? He knows everything about the plants. I think no one knows more than him but he hasn’t even finished standard 4. Our sons don’t watch cows and goats like this man did when he was just a boy.*

*How will they know about this place? I don’t want my sons and daughters just spending time like I did with livestock. They should now be in school. But how will they learn these things about our place?”*



# *Vegetation Guide* **SAMBURU, KENYA**



# MPOPONGI NOMUNYI

Scientific: *Euphorbia sp.*

## BIOLOGICAL INFO

Succulent bush (30cm),  
short and dense.

### Habitat:

Dry forested areas,  
rocky areas

### Leaves:

None

### Stems:

30cm, branched, succulent  
green/purple stems

### Spines:

Groups of 4, 2 large (2cm)  
& 2 small

### Flowers:

Small, yellow at stem tips,  
paired above spines

### Fruit:

3-lobed, on pedicels

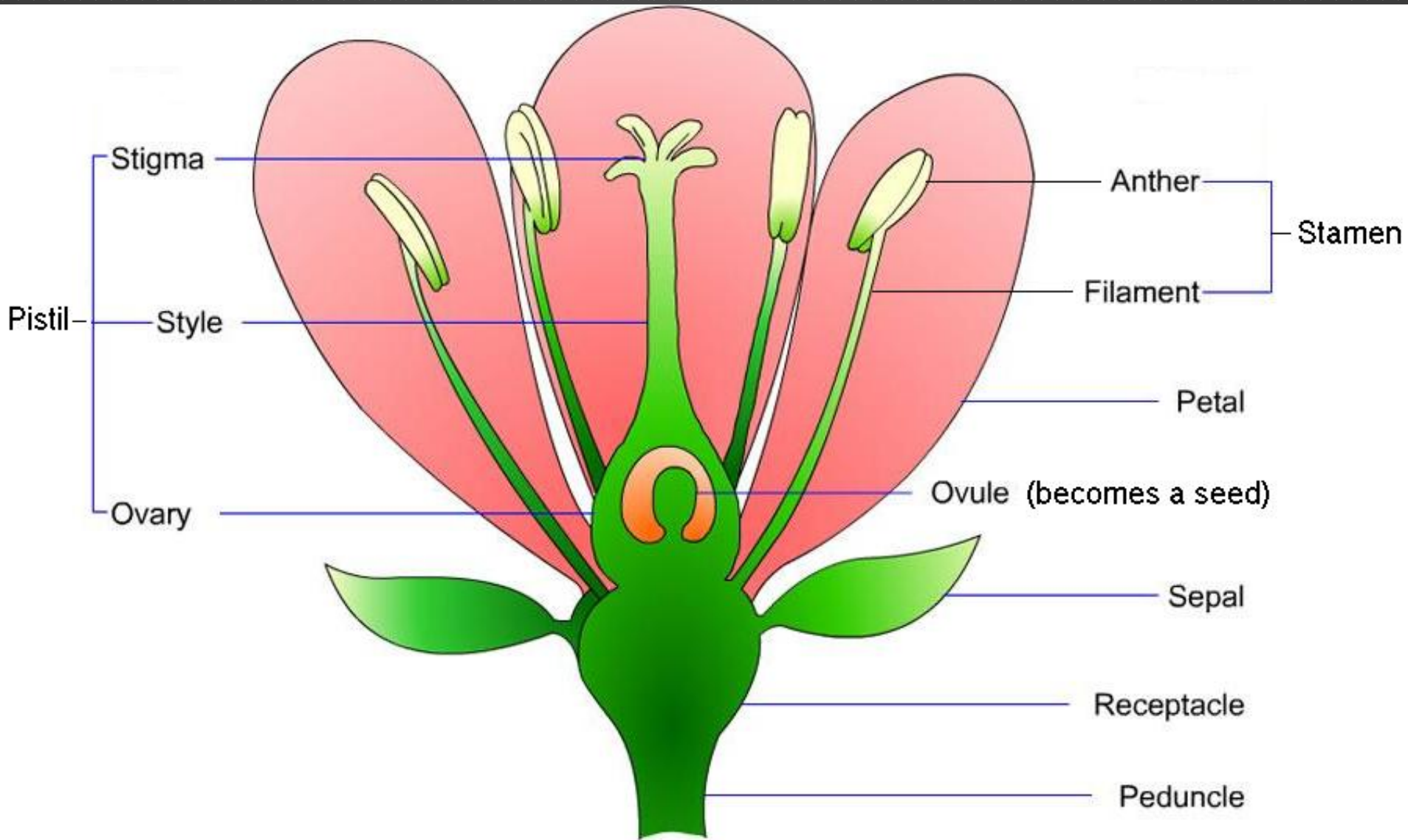


## LOCAL USES

There are two types of Mpopongi: Nchelelit (*Euphorbia heterochroma*) and Nomunyi (*Euphorbia sp.*). While the larger Nchelelit is also a medicinal species it is not used as frequently as Nomunyi. Mpopongi nomunyi is used as a treatment for ailments of the respiratory tract including asthma, sore throats, pneumonia and tuberculosis (TB).

Preparations differ, but most involve removing the thorns, cutting or crushing the stem into a liquid, boiling and drinking the bitter tasting mixture. It is also used as a treat for skin rashes. Monkeys have been observed eating the plants as well, reportedly, to treat their own colds.















# LESSONS LEARNED

- ▶ Empowerment and collaboration produce a strong deliverable
- ▶ Work within and honor established decision-making structures
- ▶ As an outsider: facilitate the process, delegate decisions locally.



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ▶ Is it ethical to transmit local knowledge that could be harmful to health or well-being, if untrue?
  - ▶ E.G. “This plant cures HIV.”
- ▶ At a local level, who owns the issue of preserving and transmitting local knowledge?

# THE FUTURE WE WANT



“A community where water and food come easily.”



“I want my family to meet its own needs, and to have a clean environment with no litter everywhere.”



“I want to come back here with my knowledge and help bring new ideas for how we can have a better place.”



“I want peace in my community with no problems between tribes, no problems with wildlife and no problems with illness.”