Large tree with a distinctly upright habit and ascending branches. The branching often begins near the ground. Eventually the crown becomes oval to vase-shaped and 25 - 30 m tall. The young twigs are brown and hairless. Old bark is grey-brown, initially smooth but later peels off in small plates revealing the orange bast. The slightly crooked, ovate to oval leaf is dark green with rough hairs on top. The underside is lighter with soft hair. In autumn the leaf turns brownish yellow. The inconspicuous green flowers appear during or just after the leaf emerges and are followed by small, crooked, round fruits. Superficially, the tree has something of Ulmus parvifolia but differs from this in the unisexual flowers and the wingless fruits. Easy park tree with lovely crown shape.