

Indigenous

Common names: **Eng:** large-leaved brachystegia; **Gogo:** msani; **Hehe:** mtelela; **Mate:** mgelegele, mtindiyombo; **Mwera:** mjerijeri; **Nyiha:** msane; **Nyam:** mkongolo; **Rangi:** mhangali; **Zigua** mhangala.

Ecology: Commonly found in the miombo woodland of Central Africa as far south as Zimbabwe. Its presence often indicates shallow or eroded soil. In Tanzania it occurs especially in hilly areas, 240-1,700 m.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber (joinery, roofing beams), handles (hoes), medicine (roots, bark), fodder (seeds), bee forage, fibre (bark), gum (resin).

Description: A slender deciduous tree to 20 m with a rounded crown, branches loose and drooping. **BARK:** grey, smooth at first then rough and flaking with age. **LEAVES:** compound, light green, **2-4 pairs of leaflets**, 4-8 cm long, 1-5 cm wide, **widely spaced, narrow oval**, longest at the tip. **FLOWERS:** green-white, appear from October to December, **in small heads** 5 x 5 cm. **FRUIT:** pale brown **woody pods** mature in July and August. **Each pod, with a sharp tip**, contains 1-3 flat brown seeds. Pod to 15 cm.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings, root suckers.

Seed info.: No. of seeds per kg: 1,500. Germination very good and uniform.

treatment: not needed.

storage: can retain viability for up to a year if kept free from insects.

Management: Coppicing, pollarding.

Remarks: Barkcloth can be made from the inner bark. Among the indigenous Brachystegia this species has the largest leaflets. The timber is heavy and saws easily but it is not durable.

