

Crotalaria grandibracteata

Papilionoidem

Indigenous

- Common names: Chag: ichekechi; Eng: crotalaria; Goto: qoly; Iraqw: golid Nyat: songa; Samb: mzungozongo.
- Ecology: A shrub growing on open sites and alongside streams, 600-3,000 m. Endemic in Tanzania, but found only in North Kilimanjaro and West Usambara often with Juniperus, Olea, Ocotea and Podocarpus.
- Uses: Fodder (leaves, twigs), bee forage, ornamental, nitrogen fixation, soil improvement.
- Description: A much-branched shrub, 1-4 m high. Branches and young shoots hairy at first. BARK: green and smooth, fibrous LEAVES: compound with three leaflets, 3-8 cm long, slightly hairy above, hairy beneath. Leaf stalks 5-8 cm long. FLOWERS: lemon yellow, often with dark lines, the upright "standard" petal dull purple on back, the lower "keel" strongly rounded, green-white. FRUIT: inflate: pods 7-9 cm long, 2 cm across, pale green at first, turning black at maturity, many seeded.
- Propagation: Seedlings, direct sowing.
- Seed info.: Small, heart shaped, up to 7 mm long, smooth **and** brownish. Germination very good and fast.
- treatment: no treatment required.
- storage: can keep viability for a long period if kept dry.
- Management: A very fast-growing shrub with potential for use as green manure on fallow fields.
- Remarks: Currently under investigation for use as green manure in maize/bean fields in the West Usambara Mountains.

