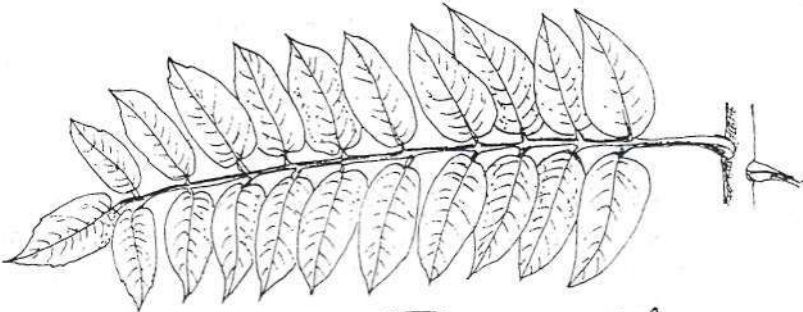


Polyscias fulva (P. kikuyuensis)

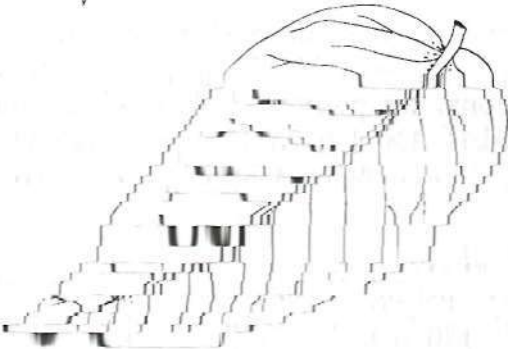
Araliaceae

Indigenous

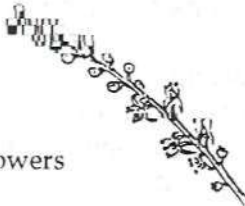
- Common names:** Chag: mborori, yaroro; Eng: parasol tree; Fipa: mnyumaji, namatata; Haya: mufaria; Hehe: mdeke; Lugu: malamadza mkong'onelo; Nguu: mkongo; Nyak: mpembati; Samb (East): kogo; Samb (West): fumbati.
- Ecology:** A tall forest tree widely distributed in wetter highland forests into the bamboo zone as far south as southern Africa, 1,750-2,750 m. In Tanzania it is found in East Usambara and in Babati, Kilimanjaro and Iringa.
- Uses:** Firewood, timber (boxes, crates), veneer, plywood, medicine (leaves), mulch, mole traps, beehives.
- Description:** A deciduous tree to 25 m with a straight slender bole to about 9 m before the development of whorls of branches; like spokes of an umbrella, supporting a flat-topped crown. **BARK:** grey smooth, leaf scars prominent. **LEAVES:** compound, very long to 1 m with 9-13 pairs of leaflets plus one at the tip, each leaflet oval and leathery, 9-20 cm, base rounded, covered with cream-yellow hairs below. **FLOWERS:** green-yellow, honey scented, very small in loose heads to 60 cm, main stalks with red-brown hairs. **FRUIT:** each fruit is small, black, more-or-less oval, often ribbed, closely clustered.
- Propagation:** Wildings, seedlings.
- Seed info.:** No. of seeds per kg: about 310,000. Germination 75% in 35-45 days.
- treatment:** collect fruit immediately they turn purple-black by climbing the tree. Let seed mature in the shade 1-2 days then extract by soaking in cold water for 4-6 hours, squeeze out and separate by floating in water, then dry in the shade.
- storage:** seed can be stored for up to two years.
- Management:** Fast growing.
- Remarks:** Can be grown with crops, the high crown lets in sunlight and leaves produce good mulch. The species is becoming rare in its natural habitat due to over-exploitation. The very light soft wood, pale in colour, is also tough, strong and odourless so has been used for food containers.



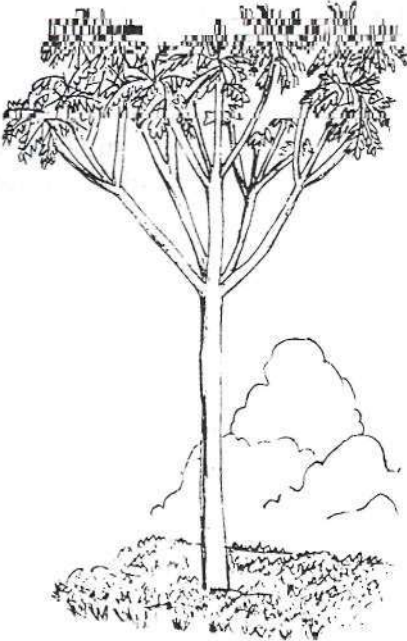
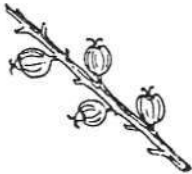
A.B.



flowers



fruit



DAMTEW T.