

Indigenous

- Common names:** **Eng:** lucky-bean tree, pod mahogany, mahogany bean; **Gogo:** mgongoma, mkolakisi; **Mate:** mgongoma; **Nyam:** mkola; **Pare:** mkokola, mkongo; **Samb:** mbambakofi, mkola mkomba; **Swah:** mbambakofi.
- Ecology:** Found in miombo woodlands, lowland thicket or dr woodland, 0-1,300 m. Deep rooting. Prefers medium light soils, not waterlogged.
- Uses:** Timber (construction, furniture), carving (doors, dhows, canoes), medicine (roots), shade, ornamental.
- Description:** A semi-deciduous leafy tree, usually to 12 m but can reach 35 m; thick branches near base provide timber. **BARK:** grey brown, **flaking in large pieces leaving pale patches below**. **LEAVES:** compound to 30 cm, 4-9 pairs of leaflets, each one to 9 cm, oblong, tip rounded. **FLOWERS:** a distinctly single petal, green outside, pink-red inside, 2-3 cm wide sweet-scented in small groups on erect heads. **FRUIT:** dark-brown, **flat woody pods, 20 cm long, 10 cm wide**, with **shiny black seeds with a soft orange-red cup** (flesh aril) lying in white fibres.
- Propagation:** Seedlings.
- Seed info.:** No. of seed per kg: 480. Produces a lot of seed. Good germination, reaching up to 90% after 28 days.
- treatment:** the aril should be removed and nicking any side of the seed may speed up germination.
- storage:** can be stored for several years at room temperature in an airtight container.
- Management:** Fairly fast growing when young, later quite slow growing
- Remarks:** Potential for plantation in miombo woodlands. A good avenue and shade tree.

