

Indigenous

- Common names:** **Arusha:** asangupesi, ol sanguuwezi, sangupesi; **Bara:** masakta, tsori; **Chag:** mboromo, mduka, mfulanje, moisiranga; **Eng:** peacock flower; **Fiome:** sahati, sori; **Fipa:** mtanga; **Haya:** myenzeyenze; **Iraqw:** sarai; **Lugu:** mkenge; **Maasai:** ol geturai, osangupesi; **Mate:** mtanga; **Mbug:** mosiranga; **Nguu:** mkengemaji; **Nyiha:** malembelembe; **Pare:** mreraiambo, msame, msanga; **Rangi:** msaamaji; **Samb:** mshai; **Swah:** mkenge.
- Ecology:** Mainly found in East Africa, but also in Ethiopia, Zaire, Madagascar, and West Africa. In Tanzania it is found from the coastal hills to Kilimanjaro and Kagera, 600-2,350 m.
- Uses:** Firewood, timber (general purpose), utensils (mortars, water troughs), beehives, medicine (pods, roots, bark), fodder (leaves), bee forage, soil conservation, nitrogen fixation, ornamental, shade.
- Description:** A large deciduous tree, **branches ascending to a flat top**, about 15 m high, trunk up to 75 cm in diameter. **BARK: grey and smooth.** **LEAVES: shiny, dark green leaflets, almost rectangular, midrib diagonal, one outer corner rounded.** **FLOWERS: white-pink clusters**, long stamens hang out. **FRUIT: very many pods in bundles, shiny brown, flat with raised edges, 20 cm long, 3 cm wide**, often shorter, 8-14 flat, brown seeds.
- Propagation:** Seedlings, direct sowing, wildings.
- Seed info.:** No. of seeds per kg: 10,000-15,000. Good seed germinates within 3-10 days at optimum rates of 70-80%.
- treatment:** fresh seed requires no pre-treatment. Soak previously stored seeds in warm water and leave to cool to room temperature. The seed coat can also be nicked at the cotyledon end to hasten germination.
- storage:** seed can be stored for at least a year if kept dry and insect free.
- Management:** Fast growing; lopping, coppicing while young.
- Remarks:** Seed should be collected while still on the tree to minimize insect damage. Leaves quicken ripening in bananas when layered with unripe fruit. Despite its name the tree gives only a small amount of gum if the bark is cut. The pale brown heartwood is a medium strong timber that is easy to work.

