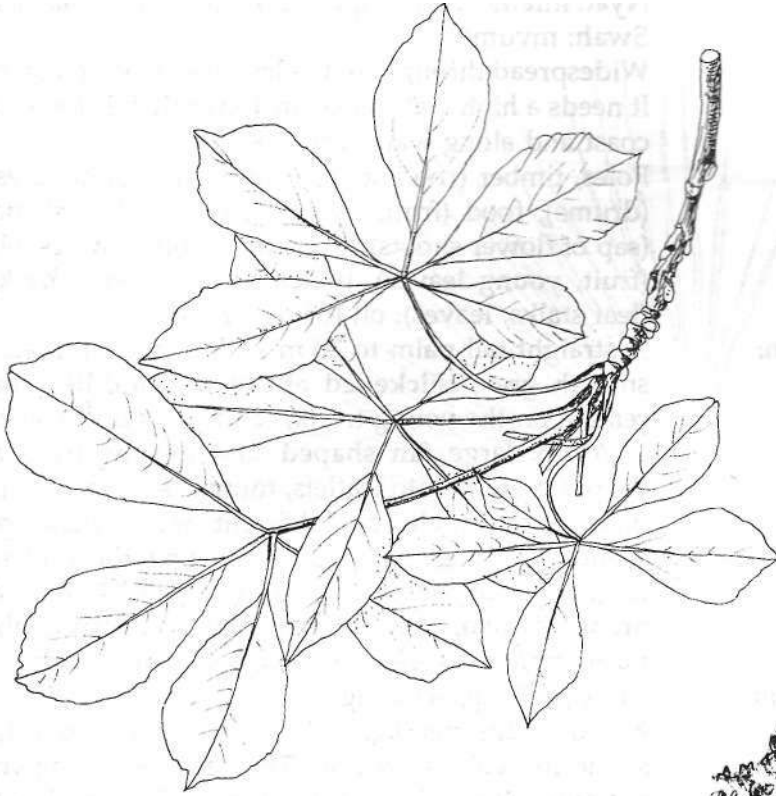


Bombax rhodognaphalon var. *tomentosa*

Bombacace

Indigenous

- Common names:** **Eng:** wild kapok; **Mate:** mkaranga mti; **Nyak:** msyavala; **Swah:** mkaranga mti.
- Ecology:** A tree of woodland or riverine forest, 600-1,100 m. It has been introduced in the Kyela and Matengo highlands.
- Uses:** Plywood, food (seed), ornamental, fibre (bark), dye (bark), stuffing for pillows.
- Description:** A tall tree to 36 m with a straight bole and medium crown
BARK: **yellow-green, smooth.** **LEAVES:** **compound with 3-7 leaflets like fingers of a hand,** each to 4 cm long
FLOWERS: 5 petals, pale yellow, red or white, numerous anthers with red stamens; **calyx bell shaped.** **FRUIT:** oval brown **woody capsule about 6 x 3 cm,** which **splits open** to set free many seeds in dark red-brown fluffy kapok, i
- Propagation:** Seedlings, wildings.
- Seed info.:** No. of seeds per kg: 15,000-20,000.
- treatment:** no treatment required
- storage:** seeds susceptible to attacks by bugs. Viable up to 3 months
- Management:** Fast growing.
- Remarks:** A good food tree in sub-humid highlands and coastal areas
A red-brown dye is obtained from the bark.



Section of fruit capsule

