

Boscia salicifolia

Capparidacea

Indigenous

- Common names:** Eng: willow-leaved boscia; Gogo: mtumba; Lugu: mguruka; Mwera: mtukuli; Nyam: mvuti, muguluka; Zara: mguruka.
- Ecology:** A tree that grows in Brachystegia woodlands, bushland and savannah, especially on termite mounds, 300-1,800 m. Also occurs in Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia and Kenya north to Ethiopia.
- Uses:** Firewood, poles (building), medicine (young leaves, bark), fodder (leaves), shade, ornamental.
- Description:** A small to medium deciduous tree, to 15 m, crown rounded but flattened, branches drooping. **BARK:** grey or dark grey, rough, grooved, flaking. **LEAVES:** long and narrow to 15 cm by 3 cm, dull green, hair-tipped, base narrowed to a short stalk. **FLOWERS:** small, in dense heads to 7 cm long, usually beside the leaves; no petals but 4 small green sepals and yellow-green stamens, less than 16. **FRUIT:** round to 2 cm across, smooth and yellow when ripe.
- Propagation:** Seedlings.
- Seed info.:** No. of seeds per kg: 4,000-5,000. Germination is good and fast.
- treatment:** no treatment required.
- storage:** seeds are perishable so they should be sown soon after harvesting.
- Management:** A fairly fast-growing tree.
- Remarks:** Suitable for planting in avenues and for shade. Fruits much favoured by birds and the fodder by goats. Young leaves are used to treat both tooth and stomach ache.

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