**Cordia africana (C. abyssinica)**

*Boragtnaceae*

**Indigenous**

**Common names:** Bende: mkibu; Chag: mringaringa; Eng: East African cordia; **Goro:** sei; **Iraqw:** sei; **Pare:** mrungurya; **Lugu:** mbapu, msinzizi; **Meru:** mringaringa; **Nyiha:** msingati; **Samb:** mfufu, mzingazinga; **Swah:** mringamringa.

**Ecology:** A large forest tree of moist warm areas, woodland and bush. It is common in pastureland 1,200-2,000 m, particularly in Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions, but also grows elsewhere in scattered areas around Tanzania. Tolerates a wide variety of soils.

**Uses:** Firewood, timber (furniture); roof shingles, beehives, utensils (boxes, mortars), medicine (bark, roots), fodder (leaves in dry season), bee forage, shade (coffee), mulch-soil conservation, boundary demarcation.

**Description:** A much-branched deciduous tree with rounded crown and often crooked trunk, 4-15 m. BARK: pale brown, finely grooved but rough with age. LEAVES: large, oval to 16 cm, base rounded, veins prominent below; young shoots, leaf stalks, underside of leaves covered with soft brown hairs. FLOWERS: showy, funnel shaped, thin white petals, sweetly scented and attractive to bees. FRUIT: yellowish, 1 cm in hairy cups. Flesh sticky, each fruit containing 4-6 seeds.

**Propagation:** Wildings, seedlings.

**Seed info.:** No. of seeds (strictly fruits) per kg: 2,500-4,500. Germination rate 50%-80%. Slow germination (40-60 days). Produces seed from August to September.

**treatment:** No treatment or soak in cold water for 6 hours, properly dried seed stores well up to 1 year.

**storage:**

**Management:** Moderate to slow growing; pollarding, lopping, coppicing. Requires over 6 months in a nursery before planting out

**Remarks:** The heartwood is hard and takes a good polish so the timber is prized for furniture, but it can be twisted and difficult to saw. The tree is often found in cropland where it is managed to reduce shade. It provides very good mulch.
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