Kirkia acuminata   Simaroubaceae

English:	White syringa
Nyanja:	Mtumbwi
Senga:	Mzumba
Tumbuka:	Mzumba

Ecology: Occurs in Africa from Zaire and Tanzania to Namibia and Northern Province of South Africa in various types of woodlands; medium to low altitudes. In Eastern Province, it is most frequent in the escarpment miombo, riverine woodlands and low-lying munga woodlands. This tree also occurs in the southern parts of Zambia.

Uses: Timber (utensils, furniture), medicine (roots), fodder (fallen leaves are eaten by cattle in times of drought), **live fence** (cattle enclosures), **stockade** (bathing shelters), barkcloth.

Description: A deciduous tree up to 21 m tall with a light open crown. Upper branches smooth and whitish. BARK: grey-brown when young, ridged and scaly with age. Branchlets marked with leaf scars. LEAVES: crowded at branch ends, **6–10 pairs leaflets, 2–8 cm, plus a single one at the end, narrow and pointed**, papery, on reddish stalks. Leaflets are dark green above, lighter below, **with toothed edges**. Leafless from May–June to September–November. FLOWERS: small, greenish cream-white appear in lax heads to 7 cm beside leaves from October to January. FRUIT: oblong, **brown thinly wooded capsule 1.5 cm long**, 4-sided, mature April–August, splitting into four 3-sided segments.

Propagation: Seedlings, cuttings.

Seed: No. of seeds/kg: ±3,000.
   treatment: Not necessary.
   storage: Can be stored.

Management: Coppicing.

Remarks: This tree is often planted in graveyards in memory of the deceased by the Senga in Chama. The swollen roots of this tree act as water-storage organs and are dug up for water in drought periods. The burnt roots have been used to treat toothache. An ideal tree for planting as cuttings to grow live fences around homesteads and cattle kraals (enclosures).