

***Clausena anisata***

Rutaceae

**Indigenous**

**COMMON NAMES:** **Boran:** Siska; **Digo:** Mnyapala, Chinyapala; **Giriama:** Kathimi kapala; **Kamba:** Kithiw'a, Muthungwa; **Kikuyu:** Mutathi; **Luhya (Bukusu):** Kumunyabubi; **Luhya:** Shingulutsi, Shisimbari; **Luo:** Siunya; **Maasai:** Olmatasia; **Marakwet:** Muniyinyia, Cheboinoiywa; **Meru:** Mukithia; **Sanya:** Arawithargi.

**DESCRIPTION:** A deciduous shrub or small tree with very **strongly aromatic leaves** which are dotted with glands. Usually 3–4 m in height, but occasionally reaching 10 m under ideal conditions. **BARK:** Smooth, grey-green, changing to brownish with age and becoming mottled. **LEAVES:** Compound, up to 30 cm long; leaflets 11–37, arranged alternately along the main leaf stalks, oval, to 2.5 cm long, edges sometimes scalloped, **gland dots clearly visible**, particularly when viewed against the light. **Young leaflets and shoots purplish red.** **FLOWERS:** Small, white or cream to almost yellowish, fragrant, in axillary sprays about 10 cm long. **FRUIT:** Small, rounded or in 2 sections, about 1 cm across, shiny red-purple, turning **purple-black** when ripe.

**ECOLOGY:** Distributed in West, Central, East and southern Africa, also in tropical Asia. Common in semi-arid or dry localities, savanna bush and at forest edges throughout East Africa. In Kenya, found in moist or dry forest margins, secondary bushland, riverine; in Western Kenya sometimes found in wooded grassland, 0–2,200 m. Agroclimatic Zone III. Flowers in March–June, September–November and seeds in July–September, December–January in Bungoma.

**USES:** Firewood, charcoal, posts, drink (leaves used as tea leaves), medicine (leaves and roots), bee forage, river-bank stabilization, toothbrushes, leaves are aromatic (used as mattresses by Maasai moran).

**PROPAGATION:** Seedlings, direct sowing at site, cuttings.

**SEED:** A prolific seeder.

**MANAGEMENT:** Fair to fast growing. Coppicing.

**REMARKS:** The wood is hard, strong and elastic. Honeybees forage frequently for the abundant nectar and pollen from the flowers.

