

Combretum schumannii

Combretaceae

Indigenous

- Common names: Eng: forest tree combretum; **Lugu:** mlama; Nguu: msimbankolongo; **Pare:** muama mjewa; Samb: lundolundo, mkongolo, mwankaa; **Swah:** mgurure, mpera mwitu.
- Ecology: The largest Combretum species which extends south to Malawi and Mozambique. This is an important coastal tree from lowland rain forest, riverine forest and Brachystegi2 woodland to valley grassland, 0-1,200 m.
- Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber (furniture, construction), posts, tool handles, carving, medicine (roots), bee forage, mulch.
- Description: A tall tree to 20 m, leaves dense, drooping, crown narrow, trunk often fluted at the base. BARK: smooth **pale brown** to cream with large patchy scales. LEAVES: shiny **pale green**, thin and wavy, opposite, on thin stalks, clear **midrib below, tip pointed**. FLOWERS: **pale yellow and fragrant, in spikes**. FRUIT: very **many hanging on the** tree, yellow-green then pale brown, four wings, about 4 cm long, sticky when young, on a stalk to 1.5 cm long.
- Propagation: Seedlings, root suckers (slow growth).
- Seed info.: Remove seed wings before sowing the seeds. **Germination** is very good and fast.
- treatment: not necessary.
- storage: seed can be stored only for a very short period.
- Management: Slow growing; lopping, coppicing.
- Remarks: The very durable black heartwood is termite resistant. A very useful tree that farmers should be encouraged to grow more.

