

Newtonia buchananii

Mitnosoideae

Indigenous

Common names: Chag: mkufi; Eng: newtonia; Fipa: mtanga; **Nguu:** mnyasa; Nyam: mpunga; Samb: mnyasa.

Ecology: A large spreading tree of lowland and upland rain forest, riverine and swamp forest. It is widespread as far south as South Africa at altitudes of 600-2,000 m and in Tanzania is common in the eastern mountain ranges.

Uses: Firewood, timber (canoes, sleepers), fodder (pods, leaves), shade, ornamental, mulch.

Description: A tall deciduous tree to 40 m with fine feathery leaves; rather flat topped. In forest valleys the tree can have a clear trunk. **BARK:** smooth, light grey, large trees with strongly fluted buttresses. **LEAVES:** compound like Acacia, the leaflets very numerous, tiny and light green when young. Branchlets with rust-brown hairs. **FLOWERS:** clusters of erect cream spikes to 18 cm, **fading brown**. **FRUIT:** thin brown pods 15-30 cm, **splitting open on one side** only to set free distinctive red-brown seed to 7 cm with a wing all round.

Propagation Seedlings, root suckers.

Seed info.: No. of seeds per kg: 5,000-13,000. Germination of fresh seed up to 90% in 20-30 days.

treatment: not necessary.

storage: can retain viability only for a few weeks at **room** temperature. Collect from the tree crown immediately pods turn brown, sun dry and shake out the seeds.

Management: It is a fairly fast-growing tree once established, but needs care during the establishment phase.

Remarks: The brown to red-brown hardwood is durable in water and is used for canoes on Lake Victoria. It is being recommended in some areas as leaves can be cut for fodder and mulch.

