

Australia

- Common names:** **Chag:** man'goi; **Eng:** black wattle, tan wattle; **Kinga:** misyamba mititu; **Samb:** muwati; **Swah:** muwati.
- Ecology:** Its natural range is Australia from hot Queensland to cool Tasmania; now introduced worldwide. In Tanzania it is grown in woodlots and commercial plantations, 1,500-2,500 m, in high-potential zones and on most soils. The tree is planted around farmers' homesteads in Lushoto, Kilimanjaro and Njombe.
- Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, poles, posts, tool handles, medicine, bee forage, soil conservation, nitrogen fixation, ornamental, windbreak, fibre (bark), gum, tannin.
- Description:** A tree 2-15 m tall providing straight poles in close-planted stands. The trunk often leans over due to the shallow root system. Most parts are hairy. **BARK:** grey, becoming **black** and fissured, splitting and curling, **producing a brown resinous gum**. **LEAVES:** feathery, **dull green, leaflet! extremely small**, on stalks to 12 cm, a small gland at the base of the leaf stalk. **FLOWERS:** **pale yellow** in small round heads on **branched stalks**, sweet scented. **FRUIT** pods, straight or bent, **3-10 cm, jointed between the seeds drying dull brown**.
- Propagation:** Direct sowing, seedlings. Regenerates naturally from seed **after burning** in clear-felled plantations.
- Seed info.:** No. of seeds per kg: 50,000-80,000. Germination rate 50-80%.
- treatment:** soak the seeds in hot water and allow to cool. Alternatively scorch the seed.
- storage:** if properly dried the seed can keep for many years in airtight containers.
- Management:** The tree is fast growing but short lived. If established by direct sowing, the stand must be thinned and kept weeded.
- Remarks:** Susceptible to termites, and in marginal areas it sometime suffers from epidemics of fungal and insect attack. In the highland zone it is a good source of quick-growing high quality fuel and tannin. It is the most widely used tree crop for high-quality tannin. It should not be intercropped and even grass grows poorly under these trees. Avoid planting on steep sites due to the erosion hazard. This tree has recently been renamed *Rocosperma mearnsii*.

