

Indigenous

Common names: **Eng:** falcon's claw acacia, white thorn; **Fipa:** miombwi; **Haya:** mkuku, omugu; **Hehe:** msukanzi, mtopotopo; **Gogo:** muwindi; **Goro:** amafughuni, fitsimo; **Iraqw:** amafughuni; **Lugu:** muwindi; **Mate:** mtonya, mwao; **Mbug:** morufu; **Mwera:** mkwanga; **Nyam:** livindwe, mgupulu; **Nyaf:** mukese; **Rangi:** kijame, mungurufa; **Samb:** mgunga; **Sukir:** mugu, ngingu; **Swah:** mgunga; **Zigua:** mdunga.

Ecology: This Acacia is widespread in tropical Africa with several varieties. Common along water courses and swamp edges throughout the dry and moist plateau area of Tanzania. Although tolerant of alkaline and saline soils, it requires rich valley soil or black cotton soil with permanent moisture in subsoils to grow well. Trees planted in eroded areas like Kondo and Shinyanga have performed well.

Uses: Firewood, timber, posts, farm tools, medicine (leaves and roots), fodder (pods, leaves, seeds), ornamental, nitrogen fixation, soil improvement, gum, live fence.

Description: A tree with feathery foliage up to 20 m, an **open canopy with a spreading crown**. **BARK:** yellow-grey, fissured, variable, sometimes flaking or scaling. The trunk and branches may bear hooked prickles on a swollen woody base. **THORNS:** in pairs, **small hooked prickles, pale or dark**. **LEAVES:** compound, **13-40 pairs pinnae, leaflet very small and narrow, sharp pointed**, paler below, leaf stalk hairy, with glands to 8 cm long. **FLOWERS:** **in spike to 12 cm, two or more together, creamy white**, fragrant, flowering with new leaves, flower stalks hairy. **FRUIT:** pods, **straight, flat**, tip pointed, **to 18 cm, smooth, brown**. **Propagation:** Seedlings, direct sowing.

Seed info.: Seeds prolifically. No. of seeds per kg: 14,000-16,000. Good seeds germinate in 10-20 days; germination rate 60-90%.

treatment: immerse in hot water, allow to cool and soak for 24 hours or nick seed at cotyledon end.

storage: seed can be stored if kept cool, dry and insect free.

Management: Fast growing on good sites; pollarding, coppicing.

Remarks: The tree provides excellent fuel and termite-resistant timber but is unpleasant to handle or work with in plantation because of the exceptionally sharp and hooked thorns of the branches. It is regarded as an indicator of suitability for cotton and tobacco.

Acacia polyacantha (*A. campylacantha*)

Mimosoideae



A. B