

**Azelia quanzensis****Indigenous**

STANDARD/TRADE NAME: Azelia.

COMMON NAMES: **Boni**: Yam ed; **Digo**: Mbambakofi; **English**: Mahogany bean, Pod mahogany; **Giriama**: Mwamba; **Pokomo**: Mgombakomfe; **Sanya**: Yamicha; **Swahili**: Mbambakofi.

**DESCRIPTION**: A large spreading leafy semi-deciduous forest tree, usually to 12 m but can reach 20 m. **BARK**: Grey-brown, flaking in large pieces leaving **pale patches below**. **LEAVES**: To 30 cm, divided into 4 pairs of leaflets, each one to 13 cm long, oblong, **tip rounded**. **FLOWERS**: Distinctively **bilobed at apex**, green outside, pink-red inside, 2–3 cm wide, sweet-scented, in small groups on erect heads. **FRUIT**: Dark-brown, flat **woody pods to 3 cm long, 10 cm wide, with shiny black seeds** in a soft orange-red cup at their base (fleshy aril).

**ECOLOGY**: Distributed from Somalia to South Africa. In Kenya it is only coastal. Typical of coastal forests, including Arabuko-Sokoke, Shimba Hills, Lower Tana, Boni and Witu. Also found in coastal woodland, 0–450 m. Deep roots. Prefers medium light soils. Agroclimatic Zones I–III. Flowers at the coast in March–April, seeds in October–December.

**USES**: Timber (construction, doors), poles (for main support in houses, very hard), furniture, boat building (canoes and dhows), medicine, shade, ornamental, curios, necklaces (seeds).

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

**SEED**: 200–500 seeds per kg. Germination good, reaching 90% after 28 days.

**treatment**: The aril should be removed, no other treatment needed.

**storage**: Seed can be stored for up to a year. Add ash to reduce insect damage.

**MANAGEMENT**: Slow growing, fast at early stages; lopping, pollarding. Prune to give clear bole. It withstands lopping and pollarding but does not coppice.

**REMARKS**: The wood is termite and fire resistant. The tree is becoming rare in unprotected areas due to exploitation for timber. Timber light brown, hard and heavy. It works well taking a fine polish, durable. An excellent shade

**Fabaceae (Caesalpiniaceae)**

tree. Leaves are food for butterfly larvae, reaped by coastal farmers for export.

**FURTHER READING**: <http://www.worldagroforestrycentre.org/Sites/TreeDBS/AFT/AFT.htm>; Albrecht, 1993; Beentje, 1994; Kokwaro, 1993; Mbuya et al., 1994; Noad and Birnie, 1989; Palgrave and Palgrave, 2002; Storrs, 1979; van Wyk, 1998.

