

Albizia antunesiana

Mimosoideae

Indigenous

English: Purple-leaved albizia, winter thorn

Kunda: Chingologolo, musase

Nyanja: Musase, msase

Senga: Mzanga

Tumbuka: Mzanga

Ecology: A tree which occurs in a belt across central Africa from Angola to Tanzania. It grows throughout Zambia and is found frequently in *chipya* and Kalahari woodland and occasionally in most other woodland types. In Eastern Zambia it is common on the plateau areas and also in some parts of the valley areas.

Uses: Firewood, **timber** (furniture), medicine (roots, bark, leaves, fodder (leaves), **bee forage**, tannin.

Description: A semi-evergreen tree, to 25 m, with a **light umbrella-shaped crown**. **BARK:** red brown, then dark grey-brown, fissured with raised scales. When cut a **crimson gum** exudes. **LEAVES:** compound, 2–3 pairs of pinnae each with 5–9 papery leaflets, **grey-blue-green below**, 3–5 cm long, young leaves often purple. **FLOWERS:** fragrant **yellow-white-green in feathery clusters** just before new leaves in September–October, **stamen tube not hanging out and green-yellow-white**. **FRUIT:** **oblong pods, pale brown, 12–23 cm, 3–4 cm across**, ripening July–September in the following year. Pods split to release 4–10 pale yellow-green flat seeds.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings.

Seed: Upon being released from the pods, seeds will be scattered and blown away by wind.

treatment: Not necessary.

storage: –

Management: Pollarding, lopping.

Remarks: The tree is known to harbour edible caterpillars. The timber is good for furniture making, moderately heavy and strong. Roots are used to treat colds, stomach-ache, gonorrhoea and internal bleeding and the sap to wash cuts and wounds.

