

Annona senegalensis* subsp. *senegalensis* (*A. chrysophylla*) Annonaceae*Indigenous**

COMMON NAMES: **Boni:** Malamuti, Mlamote; **Digo:** Mbokwe; **English:** Wild custard apple; **Giriama:** Mutakuma; **Kamba:** Makulo, Kitomoko, Matomoko (fruit), Mutomoko wa kitheka; **Luhya:** Muvulu; **Luhya (Bukusu):** Kumufwora; **Luo:** Nyabolo, Obolobolo, Obolo (Migori); **Sanya:** Bombo; **Swahili:** Mkonokono, Mtomoko mwitu.

DESCRIPTION: A spreading shrub or small tree to 6 m, rarely higher. **BARK:** Grey and smooth, thick and folded when old, young stems hairy and orange-red. **LEAVES:** Broadly oval, to 15 cm x 10 cm wide, blue-green, hairy below, fragrant when crushed. **FLOWERS:** 1–2 small flowers hang down below twigs, yellowish with petals and sepals in 3s. **FRUIT:** Rounded, 2–7 cm, smooth, with divisions. Green when unripe, turning orange-yellow and smelling like pineapple on ripening. The sweet pulp is edible. Seeds smooth, shiny brown.

ECOLOGY: The species is widespread in tropical Africa, from Senegal to South Africa and Madagascar in semi-arid to subhumid regions. In Kenya, in wet lowland savanna at the coast, in the Lake basin and in the highlands east of Mt Kenya, including Kitui Hills, in bushed grassland, humid, riverine woodland, coastal bushed grassland and forests, mostly as an understorey shrub, 0–2,400 m. Grows well in a variety of soils: deep sandy, alluvial or light red loam. Agroclimatic Zones I–III. Very common in Zone III. Flowers in February–March and seeds in June–August in Bungoma.

USES: Firewood of low quality, edible fruit, medicine (bark, root, gum, fruit), fodder (leaves), ornamental, windbreak, fibre (bark), brown dye (bark).

PROPAGATION: Seedlings (sow seeds in pots), wildings, root suckers from exposed or injured roots.

SEED: 2,500–3,000 seeds per kg. Germination is good but sporadic.

treatment: Not necessary.

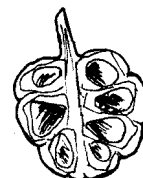
storage: Seeds susceptible to insect damage and lose viability within 6 months. Add ash to reduce insect damage.

MANAGEMENT: Very susceptible to fire and weeds. Needs shade from other trees but cannot live under tropical

forest conditions. Plant under trees with light shade. Slow growing. Coppices well. Pick fruit green and slightly unripe and keep it indoors for ripening to avoid bird damage.

REMARKS: Fruit eaten raw. It has an acid-sweet taste.

FURTHER READING: <http://www.worldagroforestrycentre.org/Sites/TreeDBS/AFT/AFT.htm>; Backes and Ahenda, 1998; Beentje, 1994; Bekele-Tesemma et al., 1993; Katende et al., 1995, 1999; Kokwaro, 1993; Mbuya et al., 1994; Palgrave and Palgrave, 2002; Ruffo et al., 2002; Sommerlatte and Sommerlatte, 1990; von Maydell, 1990.



Section of fruit

