

Annona senegalensis (*A. chrysophylla*)

Annonaceae

Indigenous

Common names: **Bende:** mfila; **Bond:** mtonkwe; **Chag:** mrisirisi, mtomoko; **Eng:** wild custard apple; **Nyam:** mfila, mkonola, mtopetope; **Samb:** mbokue, mtonkwe; **Swah:** mchekwa, mtomoko mwtu, mtopetope; **Zara:** tope-tope; **Zigua:** mtonkwe; **Zinza:** mkonyo.

Ecology: A wild fruit tree found all over Africa in semi-arid to sub-humid regions. In Tanzania, it grows in wet lowland savannah at the coast, in the Usambaras and in the Lake Victoria basin. It grows well in a variety of soils, mostly as an understory shrub, 0-2,000 m.

Uses: Fruit, medicine (root, gum, fruit), fodder (leaves), dye (bark).

Description: A shrubby deciduous tree, usually 2-6 m. **BARK:** grey and smooth, thick and folded when old, young stems hairy and orange. **LEAVES:** oval and rounded, blue-green to 18 cm long, hairy below, a peculiar smell when crushed. **FLOWERS:** 1-3 small flowers hang down below twigs, yellow-green petals and sepals in threes. **FRUIT:** rounded 2-7 cm smooth with divisions. Green when unripe, turning orange-yellow when ripe and smelling like pineapple. The sweet pulp surrounding many seeds is edible.

Propagation: Seedlings and wildings.

Seed info.: No of seeds per kg: 2,500-3,000. Germination is good but sporadic.

treatment: no treatment required.

storage: seeds susceptible to insect damage and lose viability within 6 months.

Management: Very susceptible to fire and weeds. Needs shade from other trees.

Remarks:



Actual size of fruit