

Indigenous

- Common names:** **Bara:** hawi, ganyamda; **Chag:** mohoromo; **Eng:** desert date; **Fiome:** mjirya; **Gogo:** mduguyu; **Goro:** hawi; **Iraqw:** hawi, hotlimo; Lugu: mkongo; **Mbug:** modori; **Nguu:** mkonga; Nyam: mduguyu, myuguyu, muvambang'oma; Nyaf: mfughuyu; Nyir: mudugunga; **Pare:** iteru, mkisingo, mkonga; **Rangi:** kivambang'ombe, nyijiva; Suku: myuguyugu, nyuguyu; **Zigua:** muwambangoma; Zinza mruugu.
- Ecology:** An important tree found all over Africa from arid and semi-arid regions to sub-humid savannah, 200-800 mm rainfall, 0-2,000 m. Prefers valley soils, but will grow in sand, clay, black cotton, alluvial, and stony soils. In Tanzania common in Shinyanga, Nzega, Singida, Dodoma, and Babati.
- Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, poles, timber (furniture), utensils, tool handles, food (fruit), medicine (roots, bark, fruit), mulch. shade, windbreak, gum, fencing (branches), oil (fruit).
- Description:** A small evergreen tree about 6 m, **crown rounded in a tangled mass of thorny branches.** BARK: dark, cracked and corky with age. THORNS: to 8 cm, soft at first, then woody. LEAVES: distinctive pairs of grey-green leaflets, ovate. FLOWERS: fragrant, **yellow-green** clusters. FRUIT: date-like about **5 cm long**, both ends rounded, **yellow when ripe, a hard pointed seed 4 x 2 cm within surrounded by yellow-brown, bitter-sweet flesh**, seed easily separated.
- Propagation:** Seedlings, direct sowing, root suckers.
- Seed info.:** No. of seeds per kg: 600-1,000. Germinates in 1-4 weeks. Seeds very susceptible to attack by insects.
- treatment:** Soak seeds in cold water for two days and change it after 24 hours.
- storage:** store dry and insect free; seed removed from fruit can be stored for up to a year.
- Management:** Seedlings are slow growing, root suckers faster. Protect young seedlings from browsing and fire. Coppicing, pollarding.
- Remarks:** An important species for dry areas as it produces fruit in very dry seasons. The wood is termite resistant. Extracts of fruit and bark can be used to kill the snail hosts of bilharzia.

