

## *Bauhinia petersiana*

## Caesalpinioideae

Indigenous

**English:** White bauhinia  
**Nyanja:** Mpondo, katondotondo  
**Senga:** Mpondo  
**Tumbuka:** Mpondo

**Ecology:** A small tree distributed from Tanzania south to Namibia, 150–1,830 m. Common all over Zambia except northern areas. Growing in most woodlands and on anthills.

**Uses:** Food (seeds), medicine (roots, leaves), fodder (leaves, pods), **ornamental**, shade, tannin (roots).

**Description:** Evergreen or semi-deciduous, shrubby scrambler to 2–8 m with spreading branches, branchlets with brown hairs. **BARK:** grey-brown. **LEAVES:** **blue-green, divided into 2 lobes**, lobes rounded, 3–9 cm across, feel hairy below. **FLOWERS:** **white with pink stamens**, petals wavy, to 8 cm long, September–January. **FRUIT:** **brown and smooth**, to 18 x 6 cm, explode to set free 5–8 flat, brown seeds, May–September; dry **spiral pods remain**.

**Propagation:** Seedlings, direct seeding.

**Seed:** No. of seeds per kg: 1,500.

**treatment:** Soak in hot water and allow to cool for 24 hours.

**storage:** Can be stored.

**Management:** Pruning, coppicing, pollarding.

**Remarks:** Elephant browse on leaves and pods. Seeds have been eaten raw or cooked as famine food. Ground seeds have been used as a substitute for coffee, “Zambezi coffee”.

