

Indigenous

- Common names:** **Arusha:** iranguwe; **Bara:** besbesjan; **Eng:** winged bersama, **Haya:** muyungula; **Chag:** moosa, manguwe; **Hehe:** mpeme, mnyatoma, mbasamono; **Iraqw:** waamisi; **Maasai:** alasoki, engoisiki; **Meru:** iranguwe; **Mwera:** mbonika; **Range** ikochokocho; **Samb:** mtumlati, mbamba, mgonono, monko, mtata; **Swah:** mwangwakwao.
- Ecology:** Occurring along banks in wooded river valleys at the edges of evergreen forest and also in open woodlands. In Tanzania, common in highland forest margins in Kill manjaro, Arusha, Usambara, Iringa and Mbeya. A high-altitude tree, 2-2,400 m.
- Uses:** Firewood, timber, carving, utensils (stools, waterpots), medicine, beehives, shade, ornamental.
- Description:** A handsome, well-foliaged tree, 7-15 m high in forest
BARK: light-brown, smooth at first becoming rough with old age. **LEAVES:** compound with **5-10 pairs of opposite leaflets plus one** and a **winged leaf stalk**, very clear in young leaves, leaflets to 10 cm. **FLOWERS:** grow from **thick upright spikes to 35 cm**, like candles, and hairy, opening to **green-cream flowers**, buds, slightly pink, up to 2 cm across. **FRUIT:** **thick woody capsules, rounded to 2.5 cm** across, golden hairs at first, open into 3-5 sections, each with a **bright orange seed, 1 cm, half covered by a waxy yellow aril.**
- Propagation:** Seedlings, root suckers, wildings.
- Seed info.:** No. of seeds per kg: 1,100-1,300. Germination may reach 70% but is sporadic, 5-10 weeks.
- treatment:** the seed coat is thin but the aril has to be removed. Sensitive to freezing.
- storage:** can retain viability for two months at room temperature.
- Management:** A fast-growing tree; coppicing, lopping, pollarding.
- Remarks:** Very common in highlands and can be planted in farmlands with different crops.

tersama abyssinica

Melianthaceae

