Boscia salicifolia

Eng: willow-leaved boscia; Gogo: mtumba; Lugu: mguruka; Mwera: mtukuli; Nyam: mvuti, muguluka; Zara: mguruka.

Ecology: A tree that grows in Brachystegia woodlands, bushland and savannah, especially on termite mounds, 300-1,800 m. Also occurs in Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia and Kenya north to Ethiopia.

Uses: Firewood, poles (building), medicine (young leaves, bark), fodder (leaves), shade, ornamental.

Description: A small to medium deciduous tree, to 15 m, crown rounded but flattened, branches drooping. BARK: grey or dark grey, rough, grooved, flaking. LEAVES: long and narrow to 15 cm by 3 cm, dull green, hair-tipped, base narrowed to a short stalk. FLOWERS: small, in dense heads to 7 cm long, usually beside the leaves; no petals but 4 small green sepals and yellow-green stamens, less than 16. FRUIT: round to 2 cm across, smooth and yellow when ripe.

Propagation: Seedlings.

Seed info.: No. of seeds per kg: 4,000-5,000. Germination is good and fast.

treatment: no treatment required.

storage: seeds are perishable so they should be sown soon after harvesting.

Management: A fairly fast-growing tree.

Remarks: Suitable for planting in avenues and for shade. Fruits much favoured by birds and the fodder by goats. Young leaves are used to treat both tooth and stomach ache.
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Capparidaceae