

Breonadia salicina (6. microcephala)

Rubiaceae

Indigenous

- Common names:** **Mate:** mgwina; **Nyak:** mgwina; Swah: mgwina; **Zigua:** mdogowe.
- Ecology:** A tree that grows in moist valleys and along streams at low altitudes in Tanzania, including Zanzibar. It also occurs in Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, the Sudan, Ethiopia and Madagascar. It often grows with its roots in water between gravel and rocks, e.g. in the Usambara Mountains, 0-1,500 m.
- Uses:** Firewood, timber (building, roofing), poles, medicine (bark).
- Description:** An evergreen tree 15-20 m with a medium crown. **BARK:** grey or grey brown, flaking. **LEAVES:** simple, crowded at the ends of branches, alternate or in whorls, dark green, shiny, **long and narrow, pale yellow veins very clear, a thick stalk to 2 cm.** **FLOWERS:** small, **pale mauve**, sweet scented, in **heads up to 4 cm diameter**, on slender stalks 6 cm long. Flowers small, tubular and white styles tipped green hanging out. **FRUIT:** Very small **brown capsules clustered in round heads.** Each capsule contains 2 winged seeds.
- Propagation:** Easily grown from seed, wildings.
- Seed info.:** Seeds very small.
- treatment:** no treatment required.
- storage:** can retain viability only for about 3 months.
- Management:** Fairly fast growing.
- Remarks:** This species grows well in valleys with coffee and other agricultural crops in southern Tanzania. It was formerly classified as *Adina microcephala*. It resembles *Rauvolfia affa* in habit and site. The excellent timber is hard, heavy and durable in the ground. It contains oil with a distinctive smell and has a dark grain on a yellow to light brown background. If the bark is soaked in water the extract is a tonic and cures stomach ailments.

