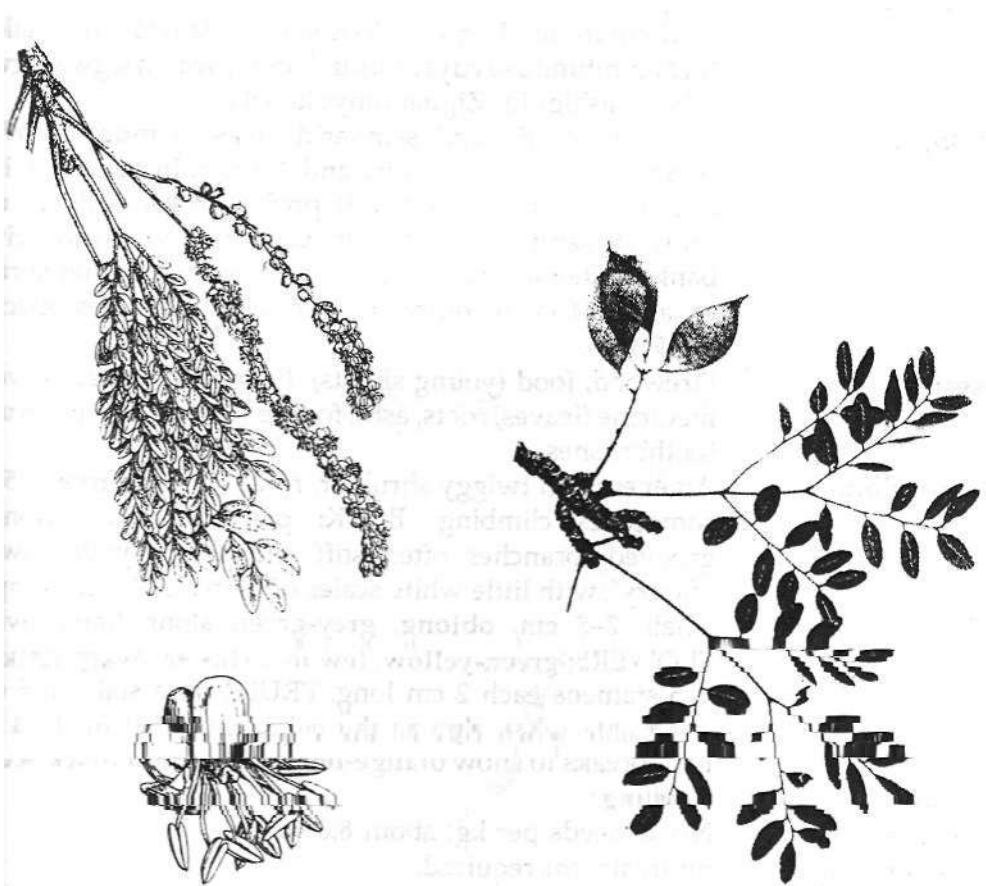


Burkea africana

Caesalpinoid

Indigenous

- Common names: Eng: burkea, wild syringa; Hehe: mkarati, msangala; Nyam mgando, mkalati; Rangi: kaimbi; Sangu: msangala; Yao: mkalati.
- Ecology: A common tree found throughout tropical Africa, north li the Sudan and south to Transvaal, occurring in various types of woodland in a wide variety of habitats on *lower* slopes of rocky hills and in miombo woodland, 270-1,30
- Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber (furniture), poles, utensils (pestles), fodder (leaves, fruit), bee forage, medicine (bark roots), tannin (bark).
- Description: A medium-sized deciduous tree, usually 8-10 m but up to 20 m, the bole straight, young branches covered with rust coloured hairs. BARK: dark grey to brown, rough and scaly with age; exudes a red or yellow gum when cut LEAVES: compound, crowded at ends of branches, 5-15 papery leaflets, grey to dark green, tip rounded *and* notched, each leaflet usually 3-4 cm long with silvery hair below. FLOWERS: fragrant, cream-white or pale green each 5 mm on many long spikes to 24 cm, at ends of branchlets. FRUIT: thin flat brown pods, 4-6 cm long containing 1-2 flat green-yellow seeds. Pods remain a lad time on the tree.
- Propagation: Seedlings, root suckers.
- Seed info.: No. of seeds per kg: 12,500-14,000. Germination is good I and fairly uniform; reaches 20-70% after 10-25 days.
- treatment: nick or immerse in hot water, allow to cool and soak for 12 hours.
- storage: can retain viability for a long period if kept dry and free from insects.
- Management: Fairly fast growing; lopping.
- Remarks: Produces very good fence posts. The wood is moderately hard and durable but difficult to nail.



One flower enlarged

