

Caesalpinia decapetala

Caesalpinioide

Tropical Asia

- Common names:** Arusha: olmashinga; Eng: Mauritius thorn, Mysore thorn; Iraqw: gharengei; Samb: mshawa, urushu.
- Ecology:** A thorny shrub widely naturalized in Africa in medium- and high-rainfall areas, 900-2,100 m. Common in Meru district.
- Uses:** Medicine, bee forage, mulch, ornamental, live fence.
- Description:** A shrub or climber, occasionally reaching 10 m. **BARK:** grey and smooth with prickles. **LEAVES:** feathery, compound to 50 cm long with hooked prickles along the leaf stalk. **FLOWERS:** showy pale yellow in spikes to 30 cm, 2 cm across with orange stamens hanging down. **FRUIT:** clusters of brown pointed pods, held erect on woody stalks scattering seeds as they open.
- Propagation:** Direct sowing.
- Seed info.:** Germination rate is above 60%.
- treatment:** soak in cold water for two days.
- storage:** seed can be stored for long periods if kept dry and free of insects.
- Management:** Fairly fast growing; trim as a live fence.
- Remarks:** Widely grown as a live fence, and dead thorny branches are also used as fencing. It may develop into a serious weed if not checked, especially in pasture land. Burning in the dry season is a control measure.

