

Cassia abbreviata subsp. abbreviata

Caesalpinioideae

Indigenous

- Common names: Eng: long-pod cassia; Gogo: mkakatika, muiimuli; Hehe: limulimuli, muiimuli; Kere: mkangaonza, mkangayonzd; Mwera: mchenamela; Nyam: mulundalunda, munzokaj; Samb: mzungazi; Suku: nundalunda.
- Ecology: Widespread from Somalia to South Africa, 220-1,520 mJ. Easily recognized when the long pods are hanging on **the** tree. Commonly occurs on termite mounds in dry thorn bush and in most kinds of woodland in Tanzania.
- Uses: Firewood, timber (furniture, joinery), medicine (**bark**, roots), ornamental.
- Description: A small deciduous tree or shrub with a light, open, **flat** rounded crown, growing up to 10 m high, (rarely 15 m). **BARK**: reddish when young, become grey, brown or blackish with cracks when old. **LEAVES**: compound **with** 12 pairs of leaflets on a stalk to 25 cm, each leaflet oblong to 6 cm, tip rounded or notched. **FLOWERS**: yellow, appear from March to November, in heads to 9 **end** usually on bare tree. **FRUIT**: brown-black pods, 30-90 cm. ripen the following year in June-July; thick cylindrical section containing many seeds in pulp. When dry, seeds can be shaken out, then the pod breaks up.
- Propagation: Seedlings, wildings.
- Seed info.: No. of seeds per kg: 15,000. Germination is good and fast for fresh seed.
- treatment: Soak stored seed in cold water for 12 hours.
- storage: Can be stored for a long time if kept dry and free of insects.
- Management: Pruning.
- Remarks: There are three subspecies in Tanzania.

