

Commiphora africana

Burseraceae

Indigenous

- Common names:** **Arusha:** osilalei; **Bara:** naamo; **Bende:** siponda; **Eng:** poison-grub commiphora; **Gogo:** msomvugo; **Goro:** niimo; **Iraqw:** niimo; **Nyam:** msagasi; **Nyat:** muhuju; **Rangi:** idakL ijovya; **Swah:** mturituri; **Zinza:** mawezi.
- Ecology:** A shrub found all over Africa in the driest areas. It grows on rocky sites, clay or sand with minimal rainfall, typical of much thorn bush in Tanzania and Kenya, open savannah and desert, 500-1,900 m.
- Uses:** Firewood, utensils, carving (water troughs), drink (**bark** tea), medicine (roots* bark, fruit, resin), fodder (**young** shoots), gum, resin, live fence.
- Description:** **Usually a spiny shrub** but may become a tree to 10 m. Deciduous, **bare for many months.** **BARK:** **grey-greea peeling to show green below**, when cut a **yellowish gum drips out, branchlets thorn-tipped.** **LEAVES:** soft, hairy and bright green, compound with **three leaflets**, edge wavy, fragrant when crushed, **central leaflet much longer than the other two.** **FLOWERS:** small, **red, in tight clusters**, often on thorns, on the bare tree. **FRUIT:** **pink-red**, soft, **about 1 cm, pointed**, stony seed inside.
- Propagation:** Large cuttings.
- Seed info.:** Only propagated by cuttings.
- treatment:**
- storage:**
- Management:** Slow growing; lopping.
- Remarks:** Leaves contain bitter tannin and so they are not browse! by cattle, but it is important fodder for camels and goats. The tree comes into leaf just before the rains.

