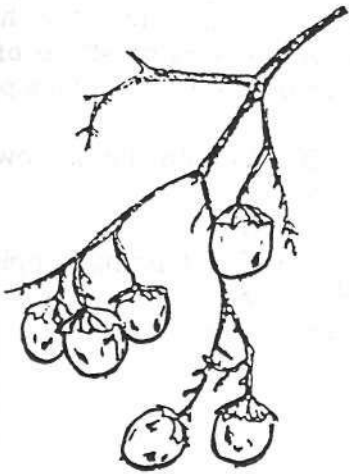


Cordia africana (C. abyssinica)

Boragtnaceae

Indigenous

- Common names: Bende: mkibu; Chag: mringaringa; Eng: East African cordia; **Goro:** sei; **Iraqw:** sei; **Pare:** mrungurya; **Lugu:** mbapu, msinzizi; **Meru:** mringaringa; **Nyiha:** msingati; **Samb:** mfufu, mzingazinga; **Swah:** mringamringa.
- Ecology: A large forest tree of moist warm areas, woodland and bush. It is common in pastureland 1,200-2,000 m, particularly in Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions, **but** also grows elsewhere in scattered areas around Tanzania. Tolerates a wide variety of soils.
- Uses: Firewood, timber (furniture); roof shingles, beehives, utensils (boxes, mortars), medicine (bark, roots), fodder (leaves in dry season), bee forage, shade (coffee), mulch-soil conservation, boundary demarcation.
- Description: A much-branched deciduous tree with rounded crown **and** often crooked trunk, 4-15 m. **BARK:** pale brown, finely grooved but rough with age. **LEAVES:** large, **oval to 16 cm, base rounded**, veins prominent below; young shoots, leaf stalks, underside of leaves **covered with soft brown hairs**. **FLOWERS:** showy, **funnel shaped, thin white petals**, sweetly scented and attractive to bees. **FRUIT:** **yellowish**, 1 cm in **hairy** cups. Flesh sticky, each fruit containing 4-6 seeds.
- Propagation: Wildings, seedlings.
- Seed info.: No. of seeds (strictly fruits) per kg: 2,500-4,500. Germination rate 50%-80%. Slow germination (40-60 days). Produces seed from August to September.
- treatment: No treatment or soak in cold water for 6 hours,
- storage: properly dried seed stores well up to 1 year.
- Management: Moderate to slow growing; pollarding, lopping, coppicing. Requires over 6 months in a nursery before planting out
- Remarks: The heartwood is hard and takes a good polish so **the** timber is prized for furniture, but it can be twisted **and** difficult to saw. The tree is often found in cropland where it is managed to reduce shade. It provides very **good** mulch.



A.B.

