

Cussonia kirkii (C. arborea)

Araliaceae

Indigenous

Common names: **Arusha:** oldimaroi, oljumaroi; **Eng:** cabbage tree; **Fiome:** liasi-lianzovu; **Fipa:** nawowo; **Haya:** kihondogro; **Kere:** murendembezwa; **Mate:** mtumbitumbi; **Mwera:** mtumbitumbi; **Nyam:** mgagigagi; **Nyiha:** muwawa; **Pare:** intindi; **Suku:** yagi ya nsovu;

Ecology: A common tree at the edge of miombo woodlands, occasionally on anthills. Many other species of "cabbage tree" grow from East to South Africa. All have very soft wood and the leafy heads are a characteristic shape.

Uses: Timber (stools), utensils (spoons), medicine (bark, roots), live fence.

Description: A small deciduous tree with a rounded crown and a short bole growing up to 12 m high. **BARK:** grey-brown, deep furrows with scales. **LEAVES:** compound, **7-9 leaflets**, blue-green in colour, **edges toothed**. Leaves **crowded at ends of branches in very large round clusters** (cabbage like). **FLOWERS:** green, appear from October to December on long thin spikes. **FRUIT:** small, dark green turning to **dark purple** when mature, **spherical, 5-7 cm across, clustered on a long fruiting stalk**.

Propagation: Cuttings.

Seed info.: Not important as the tree is propagated by cuttings.

treatment:

storage:

Management: Fast growing; pollarding.

Remarks: Burning wood produces an unpleasant smell, therefore it is not commonly used for firewood.

One fruiting spike

