

Dichrostachys cinerea

Mimosoideae

Indigenous

- Common names:** Arusha: endundulu; Bara: mtundarai, mtundurut; Bende: kafunampasa, katindili; Fipa: kasunjulu, mpangala; Gogo: mtundulu; Goro: gewawu; Iraqw: girwangw; Mbug: mukalakanga; Nguu: mtunduru; Nyam: mutunduu; Nyat: mutundu; Rangi: mdabiri; Suku: mtundulu; Swah: mkulagembe, msigino, mvunja shoka; Zara: mkulagembe; Zigua: mchelegembe, mjerejele.
- Ecology:** A shrub or tree occurring from West Africa to Ethiopia to southern Africa. It is found in a variety of habitats: open grassland, river banks, rocky hillsides down to the coastal plains. In Tanzania it is common in the grasslands and on river banks in Arusha, Dodoma and Singida.
- Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, poles, posts, tool handles, medicine (leaves, roots), fodder (leaves, pods), bee forage, nitrogen fixation, soil conservation, fibre (bark), live fence, dry fence.
- Description:** A shrub or tree to 4 m with typical feathery leaves. **BARK:** thickly fibrous. **THORNS:** up to 8 cm, alternate along branches, slightly recurved, single—may be quite short or absent. The thorns may bear leaves—they originate as branchlets. **LEAVES:** underside pale, stalks and leaflets hairy. **FLOWERS:** characteristic, two coloured, top half with pink, white or mauve filaments, lower half with short yellow stamens. They hang on a short stalk to 5 cm long. **FRUIT:** brown, flat pods, twisted into strangely shaped clusters. Pods rot on the ground to release about 4 seeds.
- Propagation:** Seedlings, direct sowing, root suckers.
- Seed info.:** The tree seeds prolifically when in open land. Germination is very good and fast after pre-treatment.
- treatment:** immerse in hot water, allow to cool and soak for 24 hours,
- storage:** can be stored for up to 10 years at room temperature if kept dry and free from insects.
- Management:** Coppicing, lopping, pollarding.
- Remarks:** The tree is not planted near houses because it is very thorny. It can be an aggressive weed, has vigorous root suckers and can form a dense thicket. The timber is very heavy and hard but of quite small size.

