

Dombeya rotundifolia

Sterculiaceae

Indigenous

- Common names: Bende: msubu, musubu; Chag: mringaringa porini; Eng: white dombeya; Gogo: mtati; Goro: gwaata-aati; Hehe mkangatowo, mlati; Iraqw: gwaadati, gwaatati; Kinga: mpangala; Lugu: mlwati, msoto, mswayu; Mwera: nachiu Nyam: msagusa, nsagusa; Nyat: mutogotogho; Nyiha: litanji, tanji; Nyir: mtogo; Rangi: mchakay; Zigua: mluati, mlwati.
- Ecology: A small tree occurring over a wide range of altitudes usually in wooded or open grassland. Common in dry areas of Babati, Singida, and Mbulu. Grows best between 1,400 and 2,200 m, often near termite mounds.
- Uses: Firewood, fodder (leaves), bee forage, medicine (roots), ornamental, fibres, bows (strong but flexible branches).
- Description: A shapely deciduous tree to 4 m. BARK: dark brown, deeply furrowed. LEAVES: oval to almost circular, 6-18 cm across, rough, often very hairy below, edge unevenly toothed, stalked. The leaves dry, very crisp and hard. FLOWERS: white-pink in many-flowered heads, buds woolly. Sweet-scented blossom attracts bees. FRUIT: small, round, hairy capsules.
- Propagation: Seedlings.
- Seed info.: No. of seeds per kg: 35,000-40,000. Germination is goal and completed after 3 weeks.
- treatment: no treatment required.
- storage: can retain viability only for a short period (3 months) a room temperature.
- Management: Coppicing.
- Remarks: The wood makes good fuel, is strong and tough but often twisted. An attractive tree in dry areas when in flower.

