

# Entada abyssinica

*Mimosoideae*

Indigenous

**Common names:** **Bende:** mubundu; **Eng:** tree entada; **Goro:** aere-desu; **Hehe:** mugelagela; **Kuria:** msarwa; **Lugu:** mvutambula; **Mate:** mtangati, munzati; **Nyam:** mfutambula; **Nyin** msaningala; **Rangi:** ijwejwe; **Zigua:** mfufumasimba; **Zinza:** musangisangi.

**Ecology:** A small tree which grows from Sierra Leone, Eritrea and Uganda south to Angola, typically with *Brachystegia* and *Julbernardia* in woodland or wooded grassland, 450-2,250 m. It is found in all districts of Tanzania. Here and further south the branchlets are typically hairy.

**Uses:** Firewood, medicine (roots), shade, nitrogen fixation, soil improvement.

**Description:** A small deciduous tree 3-10 m, with a **dense** leafy-spreading crown and **large conspicuous pods** often remaining on the tree for a long time. **BARK:** grey-brown, rough or smooth. **LEAVES:** compound, feathery and Acacia-like with 4-22 pairs of pinnae and **very many leaflets**, each narrow and up to 1 cm long, tip rounded. **FLOWERS:** small, **creamy-white-yellow, in fluffy spikes** up to 14 cm long, sweet scented. **FRUIT:** woody pods both long and wide to 39 x 10 cm, almost straight. The central sections, each containing one seed, break away from the woody rim leaving a **pod skeleton on the tree**. About 10 **papery winged seeds**.

**Propagation:** Seedlings.

**Seed info.:** No. of seeds per kg: 3,600-4,200. Seed germination rate is very high: 70%-100%.

treatment: not necessary,

**storage:** seed can be stored.

**Management:** Coppicing.

**Remarks:** The tree does not compete with crops, and has been reported by farmers to improve soil.

