

Indigenous

- Common names:** **Arusha:** olowani; **Bara:** manenei; **Bende:** mbeko; **Chag:** mriri; **Eng:** kaffir boom, red-hot-poker tree; **Fipa:** mtiiti; **Gogo:** mbilimisi; **Haya:** mlinzi; **Hehe:** muhemi; **Iraqw:** angal qanguzi; **Kere:** mlenzi; **Kinga:** kihere; **Maasai:** ol ngaboli, ol obani; **Mate:** mheveheve; **Nyam:** mhalalwanhuba, mkalalwankuva; **Nyat:** msiviti; **Pare:** muungu; **Rangi:** kichumbichumbi; **Samb:** murungu; **Suku:** mkalalwanhuba, pilipili; **Zinza:** mtasa.
- Ecology:** A small thorny tree, native to warm temperate and tropical areas of Africa, Central America, Australia, Southern Asia to Hawaii. Found all over Tanzania in open woodland or grassland, 0-2,000 m, except in very dry or high-altitude areas. Young trees establish a deep root system before stem growth.
- Uses:** Firewood, carving (utensils, mortars, drums, bee hives), medicine (bark, roots), fodder (leaves), bee forage, ornamental, mulch, nitrogen fixation, soil improvement, necklaces, curios (seeds), ceremonial, sign stamps (bark).
- Description:** A deciduous tree with a short trunk and thick spreading branches, rounded crown, 6-12 m. **BARK:** brown, **thick and corky, often with woody spines.** **LEAVES:** **trifoliate, largest leaflet rounded to 15 cm,** branchlets and underside of leaves covered with **grey-brown hairs, veins and stalks sometimes prickly.** **FLOWERS:** brilliant **orange-red heads,** all over the bare tree, slender calyx lobes and petals coloured. **FRUIT:** small, hairy pods about 10 cm, constricted between seeds, **seeds shiny red with a black patch.**
- Propagation:** Seedlings, cuttings, direct sowing.
- Seed info.:** low germination rate. No. of seeds per kg: about 6,800.
- treatment:** not necessary.
- storage:** seed stores for long periods if it is kept cool, dry and free from insects.
- Management:** Slow growing; pollarding, coppicing.
- Remarks:** The tree tolerates fire and is fairly termite resistant. The soft white wood is poor timber but can be carved fairly easily. Seeds contain a poison which is only released when crushed. Leaves have been used to treat skin diseases in cattle.

