

Euclea divinorum

Ebenaceae

Indigenous

Common names: **Arusha:** olkoinye, osojoo; **Chag:** iwaruka, mkenye; **Eng:** diamond-leaved euclea; **Goro:** sinyanyi; **Haya:** musikizi; **Hehe:** mhekele, mhimbachigulu; **Iraqw:** furufinyanyi, minighit; **Lugu:** mhekela, mhekele, mhimbachigulu; **Meru:** ekeni, ikeng; **Nyat: madaa;** **Rangi:** mbanjiru; **Samb:** mdaa, mdala; **Swah:** mdaa.

Ecology: An evergreen tree widely spread from the Sudan to southern Africa. Found in open woodland and common in dry bushland on rocky sites to 2,100 m. Quickly becoming the dominant species after bush clearing. In Tanzania the species is widely spread in the highlands, usually on rocky or drier sites.

Uses: Firewood, timber (furniture), tool handles, carving medicine (roots, bark, fruit).

Description: A small, much-branched tree up to 10 m, usually less, crown rounded or variable. **BARK:** grey-brown, darker, cracking and flaking with age. **LEAVES:** mostly opposite but appear spiral, **dull green**, stiff, diamond shaped or **narrowly oval to 8 cm**, tip blunt, **edge wavy**, brownish powdery scales below. **FLOWERS:** very small, cream in small sprays which persist on the tree. Male and female on separate trees. **FRUIT:** small round to 5 cm, **purple-black when ripe.**

Propagation: Suckers, seedlings.

Seed info.: No. of seeds per kg: about 30,000.

treatment: not necessary

storage: seeds perishable; lose viability within about 2 months.

Management:

Remarks: Root suckers grow up some distance from the tree. The wood is hard and close grained.

