

Faurea saligna

Proteaceae

Indigenous

English: Beechwood
Kunda: Chiyele
Nyanja: Chiyele, chinsense
Senga: Chiyele
Tumbuka: Chiyele

Ecology: A slender tree which grows north to Nigeria and Sudan, south to Natal, at medium to high altitudes. It grows in most parts of Zambia, excluding Western Province. In Eastern Province, it is mainly found scattered on the plateau in woodlands, on stony hillsides and beside streams.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, **timber** (furniture, construction, utensils), poles, fenceposts, medicine (roots, bark), bee forage, windbreak, tannin (bark), dye (bark).

Description: A small- to medium-sized tree, usually 7–10 m but can reach 20 m, the bole often twisted. It resembles a gum tree. **BARK:** grey-black, rough, deeply grooved. **LEAVES:** leathery, shiny and drooping; **narrow, to 12 cm, tip pointed**, edge wavy; young leaves, pink and leaf stalk red. **FLOWERS:** characteristic, cream-purple spikes to 15 cm, honey scented, March–August. **FRUIT:** very small brown nutlets covered with **silky white hairs** in woolly spikes.

Propagation: Seedlings.

Seed: No. of seeds per kg: $\pm 165,000$. Poor germination.

treatment: –

storage: Use fresh seed.

Remarks: The wood is quite durable and resistant to termites and has an attractive grain. It is valued for furniture and panneling and for making wooden spoons, stools and tool handles..

