

*Garcinia buchananii* (*G. huillensis*)

## Clusiaceae

Indigenous

**Nyanja:** Matatane, msamusa, msongwa

**Ecology:** Occurs in a belt from the Sudan and Ethiopia south to Zimbabwe and Mozambique. It is found all over Zambia except for the Gwembe and Kalomo Districts and most of the Western Province. It is common in evergreen thicket and shrub (munga) but also in other types of woodland and forest. Common on the plateau in Eastern Province.

**Uses:** Firewood, **timber**, poles, **food** (fruit), **medicine** (bark, roots, leaves), dye (bark, leaves), chewsticks, tannin.

**Description:** An evergreen shrub or understorey tree with spreading or horizontal whorled branching forming a heavy ovoid or rounded crown. All parts contain a **sticky yellow sap**. **BARK:** yellow-brown becoming grey-brown or black, deeply fissured and scaly. **LEAVES:** **opposite, thick and leathery, shiny dark green above**, paler below, veins thin and fine on both sides, edge rolled under, wavy, usually 6–12 cm, **tip long-pointed**, base narrowed to a short stalk. **FLOWERS:** **white, yellow or orange, about 1 cm across**; female solitary, male in clusters of 2–3, July–September. **FRUIT:** **fleshy berries, yellow-orange when mature**, rounded to 2.5 cm across, edible but very acid pulp surrounds the 1–3 seeds.

**Propagation:** Seedlings, wildings.

**Seed:** Ripe fruit are collected and put in a cool place for the pulp to rot and fall away. Dry in the sun after which the seeds are separated.

**treatment:** The seed coat needs brazing or overnight soaking before sowing to enhance germination.

**storage:** Store in a cool dry place, spread out. If stored at room temperature, sow within two months.

**Management:** Coppicing, pollarding.

**Remarks:** The bark, roots and leaves contain alkaloids, saponins and tannin used for a wide variety of medicinal purposes from treatment of syphilis to expulsion of intestinal worms. The berries are rich in vitamin C. The hard yellow timber is also suitable for building, and the firewood is of high quality.

