

Indigenous

**Common names:** Bende: mkole; Gogo: mkole; Goro: lomo; Haya: mkomakoma; Hehe: mkole, mpelemehe; Iraqw: lagaang-aawak; Maasai: esitete, osiminde, os siteti; **Nyam:** mkoma, mkomalendi; Nyat: musuna-nu-kuu; **Rangi:** mduwau; Samb: mkole-ngoda; **Suku:** mkoma, mukoma; Zara: mkole mweupe, mswere; Zinza: mkomakoma.

**Ecology:** A common tree of the semi-arid tropics in Africa and India. Found in Tanzania from the coast to the highlands, on **poor** soils although it prefers calcareous soil, along river courses in Babati and Singida districts, 800-2,000 m.

**Uses:** Firewood, timber, tool handles, carving (clubs, javelins, walking sticks), medicine (roots, bark), fodder (leaves, fruit).

**Description:** A low shrub or tree, 2-10 m in dry deciduous woodland, •produces suckers and branches from the base of the **main** trunk. **BARK:** smooth when young, dotted with breathing pores, later dark, rough and scaly. **LEAVES:** oval to oblong, pointed, 1-8 **cm, the edge finely toothed, shiny green** above but pale grey-white **below**, drooping in **heat**. **FLOWERS:** **golden yellow**, sweet smelling, **small petals** bent back **over** larger sepals. **FRUIT:** rounded and soft 5 **mm**, orange then black, hairy at first, edible, sweet **but** sharp on the tongue.

Seedlings, root suckers.

No. of seeds per kg: 9,000-15,000. Germination is good **but** sporadic; completed after 6 weeks.

soak in cold water for 12 hours.

can keep viability up to a year at room temperature if **kept** dry.

Slow growing; coppicing.

Twigs from the tree are used by water diviners to **locate** underground water. The hard strong wood is used by **the** Waarusha and Maasai for clubs and javelins. Bark has **been** used to treat intestinal problems and syphylis and the roots for chest pains and colds.

