

Hakea saligna

Proteaceae

Australia

Common names: **Eng:** hakea; **Swah:** mhakia.

Ecology: Most of the 100 Hakea species come from western Australia. Now growing in highland areas of Tanzania, this species was introduced into eastern Africa as a shade tree for coffee or tea.

Uses: Firewood, shade (for tea), ornamental (young red leaves), soil conservation, shelterbelt, live fence.

Description: An evergreen, multi-stemmed shrub or small tree 3-6 m tall. **BARK:** grey and smooth. **LEAVES:** simple, alternate, **leathery, stiff and dark green, 4-8 cm long** and 1 cm wide. Base narrowed to a short stalk. **Young leaves orange-yellow.** **FLOWERS:** white and very small, produced between the leaf and branchlet. **FRUIT:** hard and woody, green when young, brown when ripe, a distinctive shape. splitting into two parts to release **one black seed, very thin and winged.**

Propagation: Seedlings.

Seed info.: No. of seeds per kg: 68,000-75,000. Germination up to 80% after two weeks.

treatment: not necessary

storage: can be stored for a long period at room temperature if kept well dry.

Management: Fairly fast growing; trimming if a hedge is wanted.

Remarks: A good tree for hedges and for shelterbelts in tea plantations.

