

*Harungana madagascariensis*

## Guttiferae

**Indigenous**

**COMMON NAMES:** **Digo:** Mkonotsaka, Mbonobono; **Embu:** Munyanwe; **English:** Orange-milk tree; **Luhya (Bukusu):** Namalasilie; **Luhya (Kisa):** Omwinyala amatsai; **Luo:** Aremo; **Meru:** Munyanwe; **Nandi:** Chepsebil; **Swahili:** Mbura.

**DESCRIPTION:** A pioneer shrub or tree, 3–18 m, usually much branched, but occasionally with a cylindrical trunk to 25 m. **BARK:** Red-brown, scaling, **sap blood-red when cut, also from branches and leaves.** **Branchlets, young leaves and leaf stalks all appear orange-brown** as they are covered with short rusty hairs. **LEAVES:** Opposite and simple, oval, 6–20 cm long, tip pointed, base rounded, glands visible against the light, **shiny dark green above, rusty brown below.** The youngest leaves at the tips of the branches remain tightly pressed together until quite large, the brown **lower surfaces quite characteristic.** Leaf stalk to 3 cm. **FLOWERS:** Very small with sweet almond scent, in dense **many-flowered terminal heads, 8–20 cm across, rather flat;** the 5 tiny white petals have black gland dots. **FRUIT:** Very small, 3–4 mm, hard, green-orange, then **deep red in heavy massed heads 25–30 cm across.**

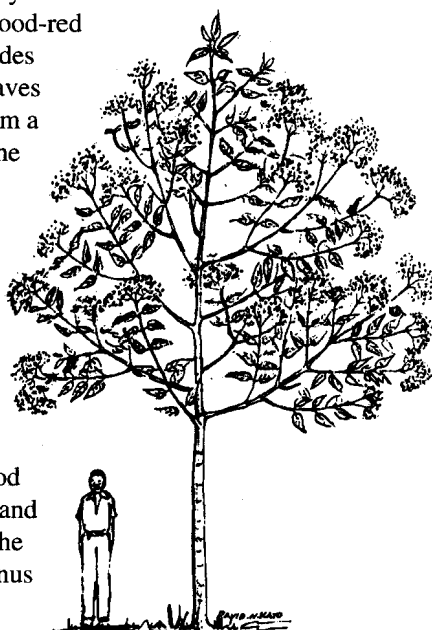
**ECOLOGY:** Widespread in tropical mainland Africa and in Madagascar and Mauritius. Common in many parts of eastern Africa in lowland and upland rainforest and at forest edges, disturbed areas, in thickets, in grasslands and around termite mounds, 0–1,800 m. Quite common in Western Province of Kenya. Rainfall 1,100–1,800 mm. Tolerates various soils. Agroclimatic Zones II. Flowers in May–August and seeds in August–November in Bungoma.

**USES:** Firewood, charcoal, timber, poles, tool handles, utensils (grain mortars, wooden spoons), edible fruit, medicine (bark, sap, leaves, roots), bee forage, dye (bark, sap), cosmetics (lipstick and toothpaste substitutes from chewed bark and roots).

**PROPAGATION:** Seedlings.

**MANAGEMENT:** Pollarding.

**REMARKS:** The tree is easily identified by its orange or blood-red resin or sap, which exudes readily from broken leaves and twigs as well as from a slash in the bark, and the species is often tapped for dye. The Luhya name refers to a person who passes bloody urine. It grows well together with crops and is good for boundary demarcation and intercropping. The wood is light, easily worked and fairly durable. This is the only member of the genus *Harungana*.



**FURTHER READING:** <http://www.worldagroforestrycentre.org/Sites/TreeDBS/AFT/AFT.htm>; Backes and Ahenda, 1998; Beentje, 1994; Katende et al., 1995, 1999; Kokwaro, 1993; Palgrave and Palgrave, 2002; Ruffo et al., 2002; Sommerlatte and Sommerlatte, 1990.

