

***Hymenaea verrucosa* (*Trachylobium verrucosum*)**

Fabaceae

Indigenous**Standard/Trade name:** Mtandarusi.**COMMON NAMES:** **Digo:** Msandarusi, Munyama; **English:** Gum copal tree; **Giriama:** Mdzongolo, Msange; **Sanya:** Sibile; **Swahili:** Mtandarusi, Msandarusi, Mnyanza.**DESCRIPTION:** An evergreen tree, 6–25 m, with a clear bole.**BARK:** Smooth, **pale grey, patterned** in green, pink and cream. **LEAVES:** Characteristic **single pair of leaflets**, which when placed next to each form the general outline of a single leaf, each leaflet **unequal-sided** (asymmetric), base unequal, stalked, shiny above, dotted with glands, up to 6 cm wide by 12 cm long, usually much less. **FLOWERS:** Pink-white in loose sprays up to 35 cm long.**FRUIT:** **Unusual shiny green ovoid pods**, up to 5 x 3 cm, surface lumpy with oily glands; when opened **white inside, drying to gummy woody cone-like fruits**, seen at the top of the tree most of the year.**ECOLOGY:** A tree of coastal forests distributed from the Kenya coast (Kwale and Kilifi Districts), south to Madagascar, Mauritius and the Seychelles, 0–300 m. Common around Bamba in Kilifi District. Also in lowland dry bushland. Agroclimatic Zones II–III. Flowers in September and seeds in December and January at the coast. Mature fruits also seen in July and August in Kilifi.**USES:** Firewood, charcoal, timber, boat building (canoes), edible fruit, gum (high-quality varnish), glue, insecticide (burning gum reduces storage pests in maize granaries), burning gum can also be used as light at night.**PROPAGATION:** Seedlings.**SEED:****treatment:** Scratch the hard outer cover or immerse in hot water, allow to cool and soak overnight.**storage:** Seed can be stored for a long time.**MANAGEMENT:** Shade-tolerant when young, and shade is a must for the trunk to grow straight to yield good timber.**REMARKS:** The tree has valuable, hard but workable timber. It is the source of Madagascar copal. The gum from bark and fruit is valued for high-quality varnish and the old gum dug up under old trees is even better. The gum continuously drops to the ground. This is a relatively small genus with members distributed in tropical Africa and America.**FURTHER READING:** Beentje, 1994; Mbuya et al., 1994; Palgrave and Palgrave, 2002.