

Hymenaea verrucosa

Caesalpinioideae

Indigenous

- Common names: Eng: gum copal tree; **Mwera:** mkumbi; **Swah:** msandarusi, msandaruzi, mtandaruzi, mtanderusi; **Yao:** mpasa; Zara: mnango, munanyo; Zigua: msandarusi.
- Ecology: An evergreen tree of dry lowland forest and coastal forests south to Madagascar; also found in Mauritius and the Seychelles, 0-300 m. In Tanzania it is found in the coastal forests of Tanga and Dar es Salaam.
- Uses: Timber (canoes, doors, general purposes), gum (bark, fruit).
- Description: A tree 6-25 m with a clear bole. **BARK: smooth pale grey, patterned in green, pink and cream.** **LEAVES: characteristic single pair of leaflets,** shiny above, dotted with glands, **unequal sided,** stalked. **FLOWERS: pink-white** in loose sprays. **FRUIT: unusual thick woody pods, 5 x 3 cm covered with gummy warts,** often seen **at the top of the tree** most of the year.
- Propagation: Seedlings, root suckers.
- Seed info.: No. of seeds per kg: about 500. Germination is good and fairly uniform.
- treatment: soak in cold water for 24 hours.
- storage: can be stored for some years at room temperature if kept dry and free from insects.
- Management: Coppicing.
- Remarks: The tree has valuable, hard but workable timber. The gum from bark and fruit is valued for high-quality varnishes and the fossilized gum dug up under old trees is even better. The resinous sap is also used as glue. Gum copal has been a traditional tree product in Zanzibar. A previous name for this tree was *Trachylobium verrucosum*.

