

Isoberlinia angolensis

Caesalpinaceae

Indigenous

Nyanja: Kapane, Msanganza.

Ecology: Occurs in Central and East Africa and throughout Zambia apart from Southern Province and the southern fringes of Central Province. It is found in all the plateau areas of the Eastern Province.

Uses: **Firewood, charcoal, timber, bee forage, shade, poles, tannin (bark).**

Description: A semi-deciduous tree reaching up to 20 m high with a cylindrical bole and erect branches spreading to a heavy rounded or slightly flattened crown. **BARK:** red-brown turning grey when older, cracked and scaly. **LEAVES:** even pinnate, with **3–4 pairs of dull grey-green leathery leaflets** on stalks about 10–20 cm, each leaflet 7–12 cm, smooth or hairy below, tip flat or notched. **FLOWERS:** **white**, in **much-branched terminal sprays with brown hairy stalks, green-brown leafy bracts around the flowers**, 1 large petal about 1 cm and 4 smaller petals. **FRUIT:** **large brown pods, 19–38 cm long x 6–8 cm wide, open explosively** to release 4–6 pale round seeds. The pods stand out on the tree like flags. They mature by August–October of the following year.

Propagation: Seed, wildings.

Seed: –

treatment: soak in hot water and allow to cool for 24 hours.

storage: –

Management: Coppicing, pollarding and lopping.

Remarks: The flowers have much honey and the tree is host to several types of edible caterpillar. The wood is extensively used in mines. The bark contains 9% tannin.

