

*Julbernardia paniculata*

## Caesalpinioideae

Indigenous

**Nyanja** Mtondo

**Senga:** Mtondo

**Tumbuka** Mtondo

**Ecology:** A typical woodland tree north to Tanzania, south to Angola, 1,150–1,550 m. The commonest tree in Zambia. In Eastern Province commonly seen on the miombo plateau and most woodland types. Normally used as firewood.

**Uses:** **Firewood, charcoal**, timber, poles, medicine (bark), **fodder** (leaves, fruit), bee forage, rope (bark), dye (bark), tannin (bark).

**Description:** A big semi-evergreen tree to 23 m, crown flat to rounded. **BARK:** grey-brown–dark brown; later **round flakes make the trunk patchy**. **LEAVES:** compound, 2–4 pairs leaflets, smooth and shiny, **each to 13 cm long, tip rounded**, edge fringed with hairs when young. **FLOWERS:** green-white, in heads to 30 cm on **hairy brown stalks** which **stand erect above the leaves, March–June**. **FRUIT:** hairy pods to 10 cm long, beaked, dark brown, **explode** to scatter about 4 flat seeds, November–December.

**Propagation:** Natural regeneration, seedlings.

**Seed:** –

**treatment:** Soak in cold water for 24 hours.

**storage:** Can be stored for a few years.

**Management:** Coppicing.

**Remarks:** A favourite tree of the popular edible caterpillars, *matondo*. The timber is durable, hard and coarse-grained; widely used in the mines. It saws unevenly and tends to twist during seasoning. The flowering season is up to four months when few other flowers are available for bees. Beehives are often made from the bark. A tree worth planting on farms for its multiple uses.

