

Khaya nyasica (K. anthotheca)

Meliaceae

Indigenous

- Common names: Bond: mtondoo; Eng: African mahogany, red mahogany, Fipa: mtembo; Ha: myofu; Lugu: mkangazi, mwawa; Nguu: mbogwa; Nyak: ilulu, nyaelasi; Nyiha: mbule; Swah: mkangazi; Zigua: mkangazi.
- Ecology: A tall forest tree occurring from Tanzania south to Mozambique at medium to low altitudes in evergreen forest and riverine fringe forest. It is locally common in Tanzania as a riverine tree in the foothills of mountain ranges. It prefers deep fertile soils with subsoil moisture and can withstand seasonal flooding.
- Uses: Firewood, timber (furniture, panelling, boatbuilding), posts, flooring, medicine (bark), shade, ornamental.
- Description: A semi-evergreen large to very large tree, sometimes exceeding 60 m, with a straight bole to 30 m before branching to a massive crown, markedly buttressed at the base. BARK: grey to brown, mainly smooth but flaking in characteristic rounded scales. LEAVES: compound, 2-7 pairs oblong leaflets, each leaflet to 17 cm. FLOWERS: small, 1 cm, white and sweet scented in heads, often hidden by leaves. FRUIT: a dry capsule, to 5 cm across, breaks into 4-5 sections on the tree, scattering 30-60 pale flat winged seeds.
- Propagation: Seedlings, stumps, wildings.
- Seed info.: No. of seeds per kg: 2,000-3,800. Germination is good and uniform,
- treatment: not necessary.
- storage: seed can be stored for up to 3 months.
- Management: Fast growing; coppices poorly.
- Remarks: Suitable for planting under light shade in a mixture with *Chlorophora excelsa*. The wood weathers well and resists borers and termites. The pale pink fresh timber turns red-brown and is most popular for furniture where it is available as it is easy to work, polishes well and is durable. The timber is similar to true mahogany from South America (*Swietenia macrophylla*).

