

Kigelia africana (K. aethiopum)

Bignoniaceae

Indigenous

Common names: **Arusha:** oldaoboi; **Bond:** mlegea; **Eng:** sausage tree; **Fipa:** nzungwa; **Goro:** dati; **Haya:** mzengute, mzungute; **Hehe:** mfumbi; **Iraqw:** mangafi; **Lugu:** muegea; **Maasai:** ol darboi; Mwera: mtandi; **Nguu:** mvungwe; **Nyam:** msanghwa, mdungwa, mvungwa, mwiegea; **Nyat:** mungungu; **Nyir:** mulunzi; **Rangi:** musuva; **Suku:** ngwicha, mgwicha; **Swah:** mwegea, mwicha, mvungwa; **Zara:** myigea; Zigua: mvungwe; **Zinza:** mzingute.

Ecology: Widespread in Africa, found in wet savannah and along rivers in arid areas, from the Tanzanian coast to the highlands and in the Rift Valley, 0-1,850 m.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber (dugout canoes, yokes), poles, medicine (fruit, leaves, bark), fodder (flowers, young leaves), bee forage, dye (boiled fruit), local honey beer (fruit).

Description: A semi-deciduous tree with a rounded crown, to 9 m in open woodland, but 18 m beside rivers. **BARK:** grey-brown, smooth, fissured and flaking with age. **LEAVES:** **compound, growing in threes**, at the end of branches, few leaflets, each broadly oval, **very rough and hard, up to 10 cm, often with a sharp tip, edge wavy**. **FLOWERS:** on long rope-like stalks. Horizontal, reddish branches, in threes, bear **upturned trumpet flowers, petals folded and wavy, dark maroon with heavy yellow veins outside**, an unpleasant smell. **FRUIT:** large **grey-green "sausages"**, **heavy**, about 30-60 cm, fibrous pulp contains the seeds which are only released when the fruit rots on the ground. Hanging stalks remain on the tree.

Propagation Seedlings.

Seed info.: No. of seeds per kg: 3,400-6,000. Not a prolific seeder. Poor germination rate and slow to germinate.

treatment: not necessary.

storage: seed does not store.

Management: Slow growing.

Remarks: Not planted around homesteads. Planted to mark grave sites and the trunk is buried to symbolize the body of people whose remains cannot be traced. The unripe fruit is poisonous. The tree is not competitive with crops.

