

Lannea discolor

Anacardiaceae

Indigenous

Nyanja Chaumbu, mbale

Senga Kabumbu

Tumbuka Kabumbu

Ecology: A small tree of lower altitudes from central to southern Africa. Common in open woodlands, thicket and scrub but not in evergreen forest in Zambia. It grows on a wide range of soils and is commonly used as a live fence protecting dimba in Eastern Province. One of several *Lannea* species in Zambia.

Uses: Timber (carvings, tool handles), poles, **food** (fruit), medicine (bark, roots, leaves), live fence.

Description: A deciduous tree, usually 4–7 m but occasionally up to 15 m, the trunk straight with **thick erect branches** giving an open crown; bare 3–4 months. **BARK:** smooth, grey-black, later rough with scales. **LEAVES:** **crowded at tips of branchlets**, compound, 2–5 pairs leaflets, thin and leathery; the **lower surface very pale** due to grey-white hairs, contrasting with the **dark green upper surface** (discolor = different colours). **FLOWERS:** trees are male or female, in a cluster of spikes to 14 cm, cream and sweet scented, August–September. **FRUIT:** small and fleshy, **purple-red, to 1 cm long**, one-seeded, October–November. Fruit are relished by monkeys and birds.

Propagation: Cuttings, seedlings.

Seed: –

treatment: Not necessary.

storage: –

Management: Pruning, coppicing.

Remarks: The wood is soft but quite strong and durable and used for general carpentry. Large branches take readily to make a useful fence. The inner bark is used to treat diarrhoea. Roots are used to treat stomach-ache.

