

Lannea schweinfurthii subsp. *stuhlmannii*

Anacardiaceae

Indigenous

Nyanja: Chisula, msambandola, chaumbu, mbale

Senga: Kombwanyika

Ecology: A small tree widespread in Africa from Somalia to South Africa at a wide range of altitudes, 0–1,800 m. It is found throughout Zambia, but largely confined to riverine forest and termite mounds.

Uses: Timber (stools, utensils), **poles, food** (fruit, seed), medicine (leaves, roots, bark), purple dye (bark).

Description: A deciduous tree, usually 7–9 m, the crown rounded and branchlets drooping; young branchlets hairy. **BARK:** smooth grey-brown, later with large flakes. **LEAVES:** compound, clustered at branch tips, **2–4 pairs** of opposite leaflets, **not stalked** with a **central larger** leaflet to 9 cm. **FLOWERS:** male and female trees; small flowers in spikes, green-yellow, with new leaves, September–November. **FRUIT:** oblong, about 1 cm, **red-black, fleshy** and edible, November–February.

Propagation: Cuttings, root suckers, seedlings.

Seed: No. of seeds per kg: 40,000–45,000. Germination is good, completed after 45 days.

treatment: Not necessary.

storage: Very perishable. Viability only lasts for a few weeks.

Management: Pruning, coppicing.

Remarks: The tree withstands fires. Red-brown “wool” is obtained from the fibrous roots and was formerly used for stuffing pillows.

