

Lanea triphylla**Anacardiaceae****Indigenous**

COMMON NAMES: **Boran:** Andarak; **Embu:** Kitherema; **Ilchamus:** Nkampurori, Nkampurok, Nkampiror; **Kamba:** Kithaala, Kithaalwa, Muthaalwa, Nzaala (fruit); **Kambe:** Mnyumbe; **Luo:** Kuogo; **Maasai:** Orpande; **Marakwet:** Man, Monwo (plural); **Mbeere:** Muracu; **Orma:** Hadaraku, Hararaku, Kararaku; **Pokot:** Moino; **Rendille:** Niondoh; **Samburu:** Lapuroi; **Somali:** Anri, Anthri, Baaror, Waanri (Tana River); **Tugen:** Tapuya; **Turkana:** Atopjo, Etopjo.

DESCRIPTION: Deciduous **spreading shrub** or small tree to about 5 m high. Branches **flexible, stout**. **BARK:** **Fleshy, smooth**, grey to dark grey on the surface. **LEAVES:** **Crowded on short branches**, often divided into 3 leaflets, each covered with **dense soft white hairs beneath**. **FLOWERS:** Tiny, less than 5 mm, cream, in spike-like inflorescences (flowering part or branch). **FRUIT:** Dirty green, softly hairy, turning dirty red on ripening. Seed red.

ECOLOGY: Uganda, north-eastern Tanzania, Ethiopia, Somalia and the Arabian peninsula. In Kenya, found, for example, in Moyale, Baringo, southern Turkana, Kwale, Machakos and Marsabit Districts in *Acacia-Commiphora* bushland, 340–1,400 m. Common on red clay, sandy clay and in rocky areas. Agroclimatic Zones IV–VI.

USES: Branches and wood used for construction of local houses, edible fruit, edible roots, edible inner bark, drink (tea from bark), medicine (bark), fodder (leaves for camels and goats), fibre (inner bark for basketry and ropes), live fence, toothbrushes.

PROPAGATION: Direct sowing at site, seedlings, cuttings. Sow seed in pots if seedlings are to be raised.

SEED: Fruit can be collected on the ground under the trees either fresh or dry. Soak fruit, separate seed from pulp and dry the seed or sow immediately.

treatment: Soaking in lukewarm or cold water may improve germination if seeds were dried.

storage: Best to use fresh seed.

MANAGEMENT: Lopping, pollarding.

REMARKS: Roots, especially from young plants, peeled and

chewed raw during the dry season, sweet and succulent inside (Turkana, Pokot, Kamba). Ripe fruit edible. The inner bark is also chewed for its water and sweetness. Bark boiled to make 'tea'. Flexible stems used in hut building. Inner bark a source of fibre used for weaving baskets and ropes (Pokot, Kamba). Toothbrushes (Pokot, Kamba). Wood used in construction and said to be termite resistant. This plant may easily be confused with *L. rivae*, which it resembles in habit. The leaves are a distinguishing feature, those of *L. rivae* usually being a single leaflet and much larger than those of *L. triphylla*.

FURTHER READING: Beentje, 1994; Maundu et al., 1999.

