

## Indigenous

- Common names: **Eng:** lilac tree, rain tree; **Gogo:** mpaapala; **Lugu:** mfumbiri, mkunguga; **Nyam:** muvale; **Rangi:** muvare; **Samb:** mfumbii; **Sangu:** libale; **Swah:** mvale.
- Ecology: A tree found in deciduous woodland and wooded grassland, usually along water courses, 150-1,650 m. It is found in Zaire, Angola, Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and South Africa. In Tanzania it is common in Tabora, Dodoma, Kondo, Morogoro and Iringa.
- Uses: Firewood, timber, utensils (grain mortars), tool handles, food (seeds), medicine (roots), fodder (leaves), bee forage,
- Description: A semi-evergreen tree with a rounded open crown and drooping branches, usually 4–10 m high. BARK: grey, smooth when young, becoming rough, fissured and flaking with age. LEAVES: compound, **1-3 pairs** of grey-green leaflets plus a central **larger leaflet to 15 cm**, tip rounded. leaflets hairy at first. FLOWERS: **small pink-blue-violet, pea shaped**, sweet scented in sprays to 30 cm long. FRUIT: flat cream-grey pods, to 15 cm, **one sided, wing like, 1-5** kidney shaped seeds are set free when the pod rots on the ground.
- Propagation: Easily raised from seedlings.
- Seed info.: No. of seeds per kg: about 5,000. Germination is good and fast.
- treatment: soak in cold water for 12 hours.
- storage:** can retain viability for a long time at room temperature if kept dry and free from insects.
- Management: Fast growing.
- Remarks: The hard, heavy and strong timber is used by the Nyamwezi for making grain mortars and pounders, **also** handles of tools. Abundant nectar makes the flowers particularly attractive to bees. The tree is a reliable **indicator** of ground water. Seeds are eaten only in times of **famine**. Roots extracts are used to treat stomach ache and hookworm.

Lonchocarpus capassa

*Papilionoideae*

