

# Manilkara mochisia

*Sapotaceae*

Indigenous

Common names: Eng: milk berry; Gogo: mkonze; **Haya:** mkunya; **Nyam:** mkonze; **Suku:** mkonze; **Swah:** msapa.

Ecology: A tree commonly found at low and medium altitudes in dry woodlands along the coast and in Acacia and miombo woodlands, especially on termite mounds, 0-2,100 m.

Uses: Firewood, timber (building, dhows), poles, flooring, tools, carving (spoon), food (fruit), bows.

Description A shrub or spreading evergreen tree up to 15 m with dense compact crown. **BARK:** grey and smooth at first, then black and rough with age. **LEAVES:** simple, dark green, leathery, about **6 cm long, tip rounded** or notched, base narrowed to a short stalk, usually at the end of twigs. **FLOWERS:** white or pale yellow, clustered between leaf and branchlet **FRUIT:** rounded and green when young, becoming **yellow when ripe, up to 2.5 cm long**, containing 1-3 seeds in soft edible pulp.

Propagation Seedlings.

Seed info.: No. of seeds per kg: 3,500-4,000. Germination very good; 95% after 3 weeks.

treatment: not necessary.

storage: can retain viability for at least a year if kept dry.

Management: Slow growing; weed well during the first few years.

Remarks: It has durable timber. The tree is resistant to termites and has potential for agroforestry in semi-arid areas. The hard heavy timber is resistant to sea water and has been used to build dhows.

