

Manilkara sansibarensis

Sapotaceae

Indigenous**STANDARD/TRADE name:** Mngambo.

COMMON NAMES: **Chonyi:** Mngambo, Mungambo, Ngambo (fruit); **Digo:** Mng'ambo, Mungambo; **Giriama:** Mng'ambo maziya, Mungambo, Ngambo (fruit); **Kambe:** Mngambo; **Sanya:** Doka, Dhoka; **Swahili:** Mshonjie, Mguvi, Mchegi, Mngambo, Mti chuma, Doka, Mwambo.

DESCRIPTION: A medium-sized evergreen tree with a bushy crown, to 25 m. The base sometimes buttressed and the bole fluted. **BARK:** Rough, grey-brown-black, producing white latex when cut. **LEAVES:** Simple, **oblong to 14 cm, tip rounded or notched, very stiff, on stalks to 3 cm, dull green, at the end of twigs, side veins closely parallel.** **FLOWERS:** Very small, green-white, in groups of 4–12 in leaf axils; flower stalks and outer calyx very hairy, flowers fragrant. **FRUIT:** Tough, round or oval **berries, to 1.3 cm, containing 1–4 shiny flat seeds.**

ECOLOGY: Found along the coast in Kenya through Tanzania to Mozambique in lowland forest and coastal bushland. In Kenya, found in *Brachystegia* and *Azelia* woodland and forests, e.g. in Marafa, Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, 0–300 m. Deep coastal red sandy soils. Agroclimatic Zones II–IV. Flowers in May–June, November–December and fruits in February–March and August–September in Kwale and Kilifi.

USES: Firewood, timber (mallets, railway sleepers, bridges, piers), furniture, flooring, tool handles, carvings, boat building (dhows), edible fruit, medicine (bark, roots), shade, latex.

PROPAGATION: Cuttings, seedlings.

SEED:

treatment: Soak seed in cold water for 24 hours.

MANAGEMENT: Coppicing.

REMARKS: The wood is strong, long lasting and resists sea water, hence its use for dhows, bridges, piers. It is hard, heavy and termite resistant. Ripe fruits have a milky sweet pulp, which is eaten.

FURTHER READING: Beentje, 1994; Kokwaro, 1993; Maundu et al., 1999; Mbuya et al., 1994; Ruffo et al., 2002.

