**Manilkara sansibarensis**

**Indigenous**

**STANDARD/TRADE name:** Mngambo.

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

**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 *Afzelia* 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.

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**Further Reading:**
- Beentje, 1994;
- Kokwaro, 1993;
- Maundu et al., 1999;
- Mbuya et al., 1994;
- Ruffo et al., 2002.