

Markhamia lutea

Bignoniaceae

Indigenous

- Common names: Haya: msambia, msambya, musambia; Kere: msambi; Zinza: msambia.
- Ecology: A tree which is common in high-rainfall areas, on forest edges and river valleys of eastern Africa north to Ethiopia. In Tanzania it is found in the Lake Victoria basin (Bukoba) and highland areas, to 2,000 m. It will stand acid heavy clay soil, but not waterlogging, prefers red loam and has deep roots.
- Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber (furniture, boats), poles, posts, tool handles, medicine (leaves), bee forage, shade, ornamental, mulch, soil conservation, windbreak, tobacco curing, banana props.
- Description: An upright evergreen tree with a narrow irregular crown, usually 10-15 m. BARK: light brown, finely cracked. LEAVES: compound, often in bunches, thin and wavy, each leaflet to 10 cm, wider at the tip, often round leafy outgrowths at the base. FLOWERS: bright yellow clusters, each trumpet shaped, orange-red stripes in the throat, buds furry, splitting on one side. FRUIT: long thin capsules, to 75 cm, hang in spiralling clusters, split on the tree to release many flat, winged seeds. Mature seed is yellow-white, prematurely collected seeds turn black.
- Propagation Seed info.: Seedlings, wildings.
- treatment: not necessary.
- storage: seed only stores well if mature, properly dried and **stored** in an airtight container in a cool place.
- Management: Fast growing; pollarding, coppicing.
- Remarks: The species is well liked and widely used in the **Lake** Victoria basin. The wood is termite resistant. A high valued tree for timber in Kagera Region. The previously named *M. platycalyx* and *M. hildebrandtii* have now **been** placed under *M. lutea*.

