

*Monotes africana*

## Dipterocarpaceae

Indigenous

**English:** Yellow wood  
**Nyanja:** Mkalakate, mtazya, mzaza  
**Senga:** Mkalakate  
**Tumbuka:** Mkalakate

**Ecology:** This tree is found in southern Tanzania, southern Zaire and Malawi. In Zambia it occurs in Eastern, Copperbelt and North-Western Provinces and through the northern region. It is a tree of poor miombo woodlands. It also occurs in hill, escarpment and normal plateau woodlands.

**Uses:** Firewood, **timber** (tool handles), poles, medicine (leaves, roots, bark), fodder, bee forage.

**Description:** A deciduous tree, usually 8–9 m (to 13 m), with an open crown. **BARK:** pale grey-brown, cracked and **broken into rectangles**, with small oblong scales. **LEAVES:** **alternate, oblong, about 6 cm**, tip blunt to rounded, curly hairs below and on the midrib above, both surfaces the same colour, stalked with **a clear glandular spot at the base of the midrib**. **FLOWERS:** in few-flowered clusters beside leaves, to 7 cm, parts in fives, pale cream and drooping, **the 5 sepals increase greatly in size** and look like membraneous petals. A central mass of stamens. Flowers covered in soft hairs, January–February. **FRUIT:** yellow-brown, **hard nut, conical to 1.5 cm, with 5 enlarged calyx "wings"**, about 3.5 cm, also yellow-brown, around the central nut which contains one seed.

**Propagation:** Seedlings, wildings.

**Seed:** –  
**treatment:** Manual or mechanical scarification.  
**storage:** –

**Management:** Coppicing.

**Remarks:** It is a good tree for bee forage. It is used as a constituent in an infusion which is said to drive away bad spirits.

