

# Morus indica

*Moraceae*

Tropical Asia, North India

- Common names: Eng: Indian mulberry; Samb: mlobe; Swah: mforsadi, mfurusadi; Zinza: mkimbi, mukimbo.
- Ecology: A small quick-growing tree with poor fruit but in its natural area it has been extensively cultivated as the leaves are food for silkworms. It has been planted in Tanzania but is doubtfully distinguished from *M. alba*. This species has the same habit but is usually cultivated as a shrub. The leaves, usually smaller, have long points, a deeply cut edge and are rougher with small differences in the flowers. It is used primarily as a leafy shrub on contours at high altitudes (Lushoto, Arusha, Amani, Rungwe).
- Uses: Food (fruit), fodder (leaves), shade, ornamental, soil conservation, live fence, windbreak.
- Description: Usually a well-branched shrub or small tree, 2-3 m. BARK: rough grey-brown. LEAVES: ovate, tip long and thin, edge widely and unevenly toothed, rough above, about 5-12 cm long. FLOWERS: male and female flowers separate, slender hanging spikes. FRUIT: dark red, small, but up to 2 cm, cylindrical. Cuttings.
- Propagation
- Seed info.: Not important as it is propagated by cuttings.
- treatment:
- storage:
- Management: Coppicing.
- Remarks: The fruit is very poor compared with that of *M. nigra*. The small fruits are well liked by children. As a low shrub it does well on contours in the Arusha area where it is regularly cut and the leaves mixed with cattle food. Some authorities list this species as *M. alba* var. *indica*. The *Flora of Tropical East Africa* lists it as *Moms australis* (*M. indica*).

