

# Myrianthus holstii

*Moraceae*

Indigenous

Common names: Eng: giant yellow mulberry; Hehe: mfutsa; Kinga: mabagala; **Nyak:** mswiza; Nyiha: liwisha; **Samb:** mkonde, mkonde dume, moonde.

Ecology: A deciduous tree common at the edges of evergreen forests, often riverine, down to southern Africa. It is common in **the** southern highlands of Tanzania, 1,200-2,000 m.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, food (fruit), fodder (leaves), mulch, **soil** conservation, soil improvement, windbreak.

Description: A medium-sized tree to 10 m with a short bole and large branches, often carried on stilt roots to 60 cm. **BARK:** grey-brown, much watery sap. **LEAVES:** distinctive large **palmate with 5-7 leaflets**, largest central one 20-30 cm. outer leaflets smaller, edge **saw-toothed**, upper leaf smooth dark green, **lower side grey-green hairy** with conspicuous veins, leaves stalked. **FLOWERS:** sexes on separate trees. **male greenish flowers** on stalked heads, **female in small round yellow heads** on a short stalk. **FRUIT:** round, 4cm across, hard and yellow when ripe, sections like a pineapple. Seeds surrounded by acid edible pulp.

Propagation

Seed info.:

treatment:

storage:

Management:

Remarks:

Seedlings, wildings.

Large leaves rot below the tree making mulch and thus the tree is good for soil conservation and improvement.

