

Ormocarpum trachycarpum (O. mimosoides) *Papilionoideae*

Indigenous

Common names: **Hehe:** lungutiwa, mtimbwi; **Nyam:** mkondwampuli; Sang u: kipula; **Suku:** mkondwampuli.

Ecology: A plant of deciduous woodland, grassland and Acacia-Commiphora woodland, especially in rocky places, 950-1,800 m. Requires 600-900 mm rainfall annually.

Uses: Tool handles, fodder (leaves), food (leaves), withes, medicine (leaves).

Description: A shrub or small tree to 6 m with drooping branches. Two kinds of hairs: soft white hairs on young twigs, leaf and flower stalks; sometimes mixed with stiff dark hairs swollen at the base—usually seen on older twigs. **BARK: grey, rough and corky.** **LEAVES:** compound, **clustered on side shoots**, leaf stalk to 5 cm with 9-15 **grey-green** narrow leaflets, each to 1.5 cm, tip rounded, **white below**, with a small hair-like tip. **FLOWERS:** 1-4 **pea-shaped, on a stalk to 3 cm, cream-green with red-purple veins; petals** persist as **dry brown clusters.** **FRUIT:** hairy pods, more or less straight to 6.5 cm, **covered all over with stiff yellow-brown "tubercles"**, quite large, to 8 mm long. Pods look like small hairy caterpillars and break up to release seed.

Propagation Seedlings, root suckers.

Seed info.: Small, about 80,000 seeds per kg. Germination of fresh seeds is very good and completed within 3 weeks.

treatment: soak in cold water for 12 hours.

storage: can retain viability for a long time if kept dry and free from insects.

Management: Slow growing.

Remarks: Much favoured for its fodder and as a vegetable. Leaves are used to treat stomach ache and wounds.

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