

*Osyris lanceolata* (*O. compressa*)

*Santalaceae*

Indigenous

- Common names: Bara: getakhubay; Chag: mberegesa; Eng: African sandalwood; Fipa: mkaisya; Goro: siginyanyi; Hehe: muvambalafidunda, mvavalavidunda; Iraqw: kipaa-atu; Maasai: oloyesyyai; Nyab munyingwampembe, muvabaahi; Pare: mzulu; Samb: mzuru; Swah: msandali.
- Ecology: An indigenous plant in highland forest and bush.
- Uses: Firewood, timber, utensils (pestles), medicine (bark, roots), perfume (wood, roots).
- Description: An evergreen shrub or small tree up to 6 m. BARK: light grey-brown or black. LEAVES: alternate, green with a bluish flush, leathery, tapering to the base, edge tightly rolled under, a fine sharp tip. The short thick stalk runs down to the stem forming a ridge. FLOWERS: small, pale green-yellow in short terminal heads. FRUIT: small, red, turning purple-black, fleshy oval, about 1.5 cm long.
- Propagation: Seedlings, root suckers.
- Seed info.: No. of seeds per kg: 10,000-11,000.
- treatment: no pre-treatment is required, but nicking the base of the seed increases germination speed. Germination reaches 60% after 6 weeks.
- storage: the seeds cannot be stored.
- Management: Very slow growing. Requires the shade of nurse trees at the early stage of growth.
- Remarks: An endangered tree having been heavily exploited in the past for extraction of perfume. Farmers should be encouraged to plant this tree species on their farmlands. Bedsteads are made from the fragrant timber. Roots and bark provide a blood tonic.

