

Pappea capensis (Pappea ugandensis)

Sapindaceae

Indigenous

- Common names: Arusha: orimigomi; Eng: pappea; **Fipa:** mwunza, mwikalatulo; Gogo: mtori, muanga; **Goro:** getakhubay; Hehe: mhungulu; **Kuria:** momange; **Maasai:** ol dimigomi; Nyat: mjaghamba; Rangi: iyarampimbi, mtula-ikufa; Swah: mubamba-ngoma; **Zigua:** mnenge; **Zinza:** muliwa-mpango.
- Ecology: Widely distributed at medium to high altitudes in drier forest, savannah and open woodland, often among rocks. It extends south to southern Africa.
- Uses: Firewood, timber, posts, food (fruit, leaves), medicine (oil, bark), fodder (fruit), bee forage, shade, ornamental, oil.
- Description: A small, leafy, semi-deciduous tree, usually to 6 m, with a short trunk branching low down to form a spreading rounded crown. BARK: pale to dark grey, smooth, with horizontal markings. LEAVES: distinctive, **oblong** in shape, usually in terminal clusters, dull dark green, stiff and wavy, the edge sometimes **spine-toothed**, base rounded. FLOWERS: green-yellow in spikes to 12 cm, male flowers at the end, female at the base of the spike. FRUIT: round, furry green capsules about 1 cm across, split to reveal a **bright orange-red jelly (the aril)** covering the shiny black seeds. This juicy flesh is edible, slightly acid but pleasantly flavoured.
- Propagation: Seedlings.
- Seed info.: Up to 20% germination in 2-4 weeks with fresh seed,
treatment: no treatment needed,
storage: fresh seed is best.
- Management:
- Remarks: The brown wood is hard and tough with a twisted grain. The oil from the seeds has various medicinal uses, e.g. for ringworm and as a purgative. It can also be used as soap. The leaves are considered good fodder for cattle and game, especially in arid areas.

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