

Pericopsis angolensis (*Afrormosia angolensis*) *Papilionoideae*

- Common names: Eng: East African afrormosia; Haya: umubanga; Lugu: mmanga; Mate: muwanga; Nyam: mbanga, muvanga; Suku: mbanga; Swah: mbanga, muvanga; Zinza: mbanga,
- Ecology: A tree common in *Brachystegia* woodland or wooded grassland, 500-1,650 m. Also found in Zaire, Zambia, Angola, Mozambique, Malawi, South Africa and Zimbabwe. In Tanzania it is common in Mwanza, Tabora, Dodoma, Handeni, Morogoro, Iringa, and Lindi.
- Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber (construction, carving, quality furniture), flooring, poles, fence posts, fodder, medicirt (leaves), nitrogen fixation.
- Description: A semi-deciduous tree, usually 10 m but up to 20 m, branches spreading to an open crown. BARK: smooth, pale grey-white, darker when older, flaking to show red-brown underbark. LEAVES: compound with 4-10 pairs leaflets plus a central leaflet, each to 6 cm, oval, tip rounded, leathery, blue-green, paler below. FLOWERS: pink-purple in sprays to 15 cm, flower stalks and buds pale brown. hairy. FRUIT: flat pods in heavy clusters, 24 cm long, pale green then yellow-brown with narrow wings on both edges. Inside 1-3 flat orange-brown seeds.
- Propagation: Seedlings, root suckers.
- Seed info.: No. of seeds per kg: 3,000-3,500. Germination rate is **very** high and fast.
- treatment: not necessary.
- storage: can keep viability for a long time if kept dry and free from insects.
- Management: Fairly fast growing; coppicing.
- Remarks: The timber is very durable and resistant to termites and borers as well as attractive and taking a high polish. Buried tool handles have been found in Zambia and dated at about 100 years old. Leaves can be applied to wounds, including snake bites.

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