

## *Phoenix reclinata*

Palmae

Indigenous

**English:** Wild date palm, false date palm

**Nyanja:** Kanchinda

**Ecology:** A palm usually growing in dense clumps beside swamps and rivers. Found throughout tropical Africa, it grows in humid lowland woodlands, highland forests and on open rocky hillsides, 1,100–2,200 m. Common throughout Zambia. It is, however, essentially a swamp or riverine species but is also found around anthills, in dambos and in munga (acacia) woodlands. Occurs in Eastern Province near dambos and streams.

**Uses:** Wine, **basket/mat making, rope**, fibre, tannin, gum.

**Description:** The mature palm trunk may reach 10 m, slender and **often bent over** (“reclinata”), about 25 cm in diameter, covered in very rough leaf scars. **LEAVES:** To 2.7 m long, growing out from a fibrous leaf sheath, the crown of about 25 leaves arching over, leaflets **narrow, folded, bright shiny green, to 30 cm**, stiff and pointed. **FLOWERS:** Male and female on different trees. **FRUIT: Yellow-brown, about 2 cm, edible.**

**Propagation:** Seedlings, suckers.

**Seed:** No. of seeds per kg: 900–5,000.

**treatment:** Not necessary.

**storage:** Seed stores well.

**Management:** Thinning if planted or growing in groups.

**Remarks:** Strong fibres from the leaves are used all over Africa for making baskets, mats, etc.

