

*Pseudolachmostylis maprouneifolia*

Euphorbiaceae

Indigenous

- English:** Duiker berry
- Kunda:** Msolo
- Nyanja:** Msolo
- Senga:** Msolo
- Tumbuka:** Msolo

**Ecology:** A small tree of lower altitudes growing north to Tanzania and south to the Transvaal, on rocky or light soils in woodlands over a wide altitudinal range. Found all over Zambia, especially on the miombo plateau, and still held to be the home of ancestral spirits by villagers in Eastern Province so rarely cut down. The fruits are eaten by antelopes, hence the English name.

**Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, **timber** (joinery, rough carpentry), **medicine** (roots, bark, leaves), fodder (leaves, fruits), shade, dye (fruit).

**Description:** A semi-deciduous tree, about 6 m, varying in shape with the habitat, but it can have a straight bole and regular branches forming a light crown. **BARK:** smaller branches white and smooth but trunk rough and grey-brown with irregular scales. **LEAVES:** small and oval to 8 cm, alternate on the twigs, **thin and blue-green with yellow stalks**. **FLOWERS:** male and female trees; small, green-white, in clusters of a few flowers, July–December. **FRUIT:** green-yellow and rounded to 2 cm; **thin flesh with 3 seeds in 3 sections**, June–October.

**Propagation:** Seedlings, wildings.

**Seed:** –

**treatment:** Soak in hot water and allow to cool for 24 hours.

**storage:** Can be stored.

**Management:** Pruning, weeding.

**Remarks:** These trees are very attractive when leaves turn orange-red before falling in winter. They are moderately fire-resistant. In the recent past, people placed food offerings to ancestral spirits at the foot of these trees. Roots are used to treat diarrhoea, sore eyes and syphilis, and to stop nosebleeds. A paste made from crushed leaves is used to treat footrot in hoofed animals.

