

# Solanecio cydoniifolius (Senecio stuhlmannii)

Compositae

(Asteraceae)

Indigenous

**Common names:** **Luganda:** Kivuvu.

**Ecology:** A large scrambling herb which grows in savannah under shade from other trees, in thickets and in forest edges, 800-2,000 m. Distributed in Central Africa, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Zaire, Rwanda and Burundi. Locally common, often in thickets with *Capparis tomentosa*.

Medicine, soil conservation, boundary marking.

**Uses:**

**Description:** A perennial bushy plant or trailing climber 1-5 m with succulent stems all densely covered with white-woolly hairs. **LEAVES:** alternate and simple, **large oval 4-22 cm long with white hairs like a cobweb, on stalks to 5 cm** which wrap around the stem, the **leaf edge somewhat toothed at the base.** **FLOWERS:** dense rounded **masses of yellow flowers, groups of heads along the flower stalk**, each flower tubular, **yellow**, about **1 cm, without ray petals.** **FRUIT:** small dry achenes, with white hairs about 1 cm long.

**Propagation:** Cuttings, suckers, wildings and layering, seedlings.

**Seed:** Each seed has parachute-like (pappus) hairs which help it to be blown by the wind. Hard to collect. Collect in the morning.

**treatment:** not necessary.

**storage:** keep in envelopes.

**Management:** Fast growing. Keep trimmed as a boundary hedge.

**Remarks:** An effective species in soil conservation. As a medicine it is used to treat malaria, threatened abortion or problems associated with teeth eruption in children. Can be grown in the back yard or as an under shrub in banana, coffee and cocoa plantations.

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