

Sterculia quinqueloba

Sterculiaceae

Indigenous

- Common names: Eng: Egyptian plane tree, large-leaved star chestnut, large-leaved sterculia; Fipa: mkungulanga, mpelemusi, msaguye; Hehe: mkwelangedege; Lugu: muhe-mbeti; Nyam: mguwa, mkungulanga; Rangi: ibuibui; Sangu: mkwelangedege; Suku: mhoja; Swah: mkweranyani; Zara: moza; Zigua: mhembeti.-
- Ecology: A common tree of central and southern Africa at medium to low altitudes in most types of woodlands. It occasionally grows on termite mounds. In Tanzania it is widespread in the coastal savannah and in the miombo woodlands.
- Uses: Timber (heavy construction, furniture), medicine (bark, leaves), ornamental, gum, rope (bark), mats (bark fibres), live fence.
- Description: A small-to-large deciduous tree, usually 5-12 m, with a thick trunk and branches to an open rounded crown. BARK: distinctive, pale and shiny, yellow-cream-pink-brown, smooth then flaking in patches. When cut, a **pale** gum exudes. LEAVES: very large to 40 cm across, 3-5 lobes, stalks over 20 cm, crowded at ends of branches, yellow-green, hairy below. FLOWERS: very small, in **big** heads to 30 cm, yellow, appear with new leaves. FRUIT: in 5 sections, each section to 6 cm, golden hairy and pointed, breaking open like a star, 2-3 grey-black seeds around the rim with irritating hairs between.
- Propagation: Seedlings, cuttings, truncheons (large woody cuttings).
- Seed info.: No. of seeds per kg: 24,000-28,000. Germination is up to 65% after 20 days,
- treatment: not necessary.
- storage: can retain viability only for a short time (2 months) at room temperature.
- Management: Pruning, coppicing.
- Remarks: *Sterculia quinqueloba* is very similar to *Sterculia africana* but has larger, more deeply lobed leaves. The gum is of good quality but the flow is seasonal.

