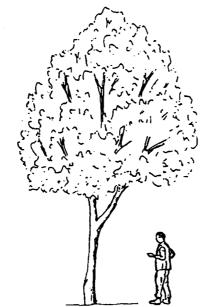
## Stereospermum kunthianum

## Bignoniaceae

## Indigenous

- COMMON NAMES: Digo: Ndondu, Mwagaivu; Luhya: Mahorlu; Luhya (Bukusu): Kumutumolo; Luo: Pololok, Nyariango; Swahili: Mti sumu; Turkana: Nyakabur.
- DESCRIPTION: A deciduous tree, 5–13 m, the trunk waved or spiral, rarely straight, crown rounded. BARK: Grey and flaking in round patches to show paler under bark (like *Eucalyptus*). LEAVES: Compound, with 4 pairs leaflets plus 1 on a stalk to 7 cm, each leaflet ovaloblong, pointed, to 8 cm, young leaves sometimes toothed and hairy. FLOWERS: Fragrant, in large drooping 20– 30-cm long heads on the bare tree, pink-lilac-dark pink, the bell-shaped tube to 3 cm long, opening to 5petal lobes, 4 cm across, lobes marked with red lines inside, 2 long, 2 short stamens inside. FRUIT: Very long thin cylindrical capsules, twisted, red-brown, to 60 cm but only 1 cm across. They split to release many winged seeds 2–3 cm long and then remain many months on the tree.
- EcoLogy: An attractive flowering tree distributed from Ethiopia south to South Africa and from low to high altitudes. In Kenya, it is a small tree frequently occurring on rocky outcrops, in rocky bushland, wooded grassland; on the coast also in forest margins and secondary bush. Below 300 m at the coast and 900–2,100 m inland. Agroclimatic Zones III.
- USES: Firewood, charcoal, poles, furniture, tool handles, sticks, medicine (bark, fruit), bee forage, ornamental.
- PROPAGATION: Seedlings, root suckers.
- SEED: Collect before the capsule splits open; otherwise the seeds will be blown away. About 35,000 seeds per kg. treatment: Not necessary, the germination is fast (in 2 weeks) but often low germination rate. storage: Can be stored for at least 3 months at room temperature.
- MANAGEMENT: Fast growing; coppicing, pollarding.
- **REMARKS:** The fruit capsules, chewed with salt, are used by Ugandans as a cough remedy. The wood is white-yellow



and makes good tool handles and sticks but is liable to borer, termite and fungal attack. Best planted as solitary trees.

FURTHER READING: http://www.worldagroforestrycentre.org/Sites/ TreeDBS/AFT/AFT.htm; Backes and Ahenda, 1998; Beentje, 1994; Bein et al., 1996; Bekele-Tesemma et al., 1993; Dharani, 2002; Fichtl and Adi, 1994; Katende et al., 1995; Kokwaro, 1993; Mbuya et al., 1994; Palgrave and Palgrave, 2002; Sommerlatte and Sommerlatte, 1990; Storrs, 1979; von Maydell, 1990.

