

Indigenous

Common names: **Bond:** mkande; **Haya:** munyereza nguge; **Hehe:** mkelenafifi; **Lugu:** hambalimwa; **Nyam:** mogavagoli, mogavami; Samb: mkande; **Swah:** mtafuna panya; **Zara:** muwenya mbewa; Zinza: mkukurama.

Ecology: An attractive flowering tree distributed from Ethiopia to South Africa from low to high altitudes. Widespread in Tanzania in fairly dry areas of deciduous forest, woodland or bush, on rocky outcrops, termite mounds and margins of evergreen forest, 1,000-2,400 m.

Uses: Firewood, poles, tool handles, utensils (wooden spoons), bee forage, medicine (bark, fruit), ornamental.

Description: A small deciduous tree 5-13 m high, the trunk bent to spiral, rarely straight, crown rounded. **BARK:** grey, smooth at first, then rough and **flaking in rounded patches exposing a paler underbark** when old (like a gum tree). **LEAVES:** compound, opposite with **4 pairs of leaflets** and one terminal leaflet each one to 8 cm. Young leaves sometimes toothed and hairy. **FLOWERS:** showy pink with red streaks on the lower lobes, **tubular**, up to 3 cm long, with 5-petal lobes, fragrant, in large drooping heads, **pink-purple on the bare tree**. **FRUIT:** very **long thin cylindrical capsules**, twisted, red-brown to 45 x 1 cm, splitting to release many **winged seeds**. Capsules remain many months on the tree.

Propagation: Seedlings, root suckers.

Seed info.: Seeds flat and winged, about 35,000 per kg. Germination is good and completed after two weeks.

treatment: not necessary.

storage: can retain viability for only a short period (3 months) at room temperature.

Management: A fairly fast-growing tree.

Remarks: A species with potential for growing as an amenity tree in parks and gardens. (In West Africa the tree is rarely felled as it is believed to have supernatural properties. The **bark** is carried to protect against witchcraft. Chewed bark stains the lips red-brown.)

Stereospermum kunthianum

Bignoniaceae

