

# Syzygium guineense

*Myrtaceoi*

## Indigenous

- Common names: Chag: masdi; Eng: water berry; Fipa: mlalambo, mulambo; Gogo: muhulo, muhuu; Ha: mbogonte; Haya: mchwezi; Hehe: muvengi; Iraqw: irgatu, matlarmo; Kere: issassa; Lugu: msalazi; Mako: mpegele, nguluka; Mate: nkolo; Nyak: msengele, muhu; Nyam: kasyamongo, mwasya; Pare: mlama; Rangi: mkamati; Samb: sambarau, mshiw, mshihwi, mschihui, muhuba; Swah: mzambarai, mzambarau, mzambarau mwitu; Zara: mzarabo; Zigua: muvenge, muwenge; Zinza: msangura.
- Ecology: A large tree with a wide distribution in Africa and with several subspecies occurring from coastal areas to 2,100 m requiring rainfall of over 1,000 mm a year. It prefers moist soils with a high watertable beside rivers but will also **grow** in open woodland.
- Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber (furniture, general construction), poles, posts, tool handles, carving, food (fruit), medicine (bark, roots, leaves), fodder, bee forage, tannin, dye.
- Description: A densely leafed forest tree, usually 0-15 m but up to 25 m, the crown is rounded and heavy, the branchlets drooping; the stems thick and angular. **BARK:** black and rough with age, producing a red watery sap if cut. **LEAVES:** **dark** green, in opposite pairs, smooth surfaces. The tip is **long** but rounded, on a short grooved stalk. The leaves *are* variable in shape, some rounded and some pointed, **FLOWERS:** white in dense branched heads, the honey-sweet smell attracting many insects. **FRUIT:** oval, black and shiny to 3 cm in big bunches of 20-30, **each** one-seeded.
- Propagation: Seedlings, wildings, direct sowing.
- Seed info.: No. of seeds per kg: 400-500. Good germination and very fast.
- treatment: not necessary.
- storage: must be sown immediately. Seeds spoil in less than 24 hours.
- Management: Pollarding, coppicing.
- Remarks: The timber is brown, hard and strong and easily worked, but splits easily.

