

Teclea nobilis

Rutaceae

Indigenous

Common names: **Bara:** iitisi; **Chag:** mlimang'ombe; **Haya:** omuzo; **Hehe:** mputsa, mwatatsi; **Iraqw:** liliisi, wahari; **Nyam:** mdimudimu, mulungsigiti; **Samb:** kilongolo, nkwaati; **Suku: mju; Zinza:** muzo.

Ecology: One of the largest trees in this genus, widely distributed in wet highland forests, particularly in the northern parts of Tanzania and in the Lake zone. It is often found with Podocarpus and Juniperus. Found also in bushland and savannah. It extends from Ethiopia down to southern Africa, 900-2,600 m.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber, poles, posts, tool handles, utensils (bows, walking sticks, spear shafts), medicine (leaves, roots).

Description: An evergreen shrub or tree of rain forest, 5-12 m or taller, with a dark, spreading crown. **BARK:** smooth, grey. **LEAVES:** trifoliate, leaflets **dark shiny green**, 5-15 cm, on stalks to 6 cm, leaflets **tapering to the tip, edge wavy**, midrib stands out below, leaf stalks and branchlets **without hairs**. **FLOWERS:** very small, **cream-yellow, fragrant**, in loose sprays to 12 cm. **FRUIT:** **orange-red and smooth**, becoming wrinkled, in dense clusters to 20 cm, each fruit **ovoid, pointed, 5-6 mm**, containing 1 seed.

Propagation: Seedlings.

Seed info.: No. of seeds per kg: about 20,000. Not a prolific seeder. Low germination rate.

treatment: not necessary.

storage: short lived. Use fresh seed.

Management: Moderate to slow growing.

Remarks: The wood is tough and pale.

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