Tephrosia vogelii

Papilionoideae

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Indigenous	
English: Kunda: Nyanja: Senga: Tumbuka:	Fish bean Buba Mtetezya, wombo Wombo Wombo
Ecology:	The origin of this species is unknown but it now grows from West to East Africa, from Ethiopia through to Zambia. A shrub which is widely cultivated as a hedge in Northern Province of Zambia. Grows well on sandy–loam soils but can grow on a wide range of soils. Found largely in grasslands or at forest edges, 0–2,100 m; it is also seen on waste land and old cultivation sites, growing best in high-rainfall belts. Grows in the valley and plateau of Eastern Province.
Uses:	Soil improvement, nitrogen fixing, insecticide (leaves and bark).
Description:	An erect shrub to 4 m high and 8 cm diameter with spreading branches. BARK: brownish to grey, branchlets with dense grey velvety to silky hairs . LEAVES: alternate, compound with 6–12 pairs. Opposite leaflets, upper surface without hairs, lower surface with hairs. FLOWERS: large white , red or violet-purple. FRUITS: flat-oblong black pod 1 cm or more wide and up to 15 cm long, usually straight with furry yellow hairs ; contain 12–16 smooth black oval seeds.
Propagation:	Seedlings, direct sowing at site.
Seed: treatment: storage:	No. of seeds per kg: 17,000–33,000. Soak in hot water for 24 hours to hasten germination. Can be stored.
Management:	Weeding.
Remarks:	ICRAF is testing the potential of this species in improved fallows. The leaves of <i>Tephrosia vogelii</i> contain a chemical called rotenone which can be used as an insecticide to control pests like aphids, caterpillars, beetles, mites and termites. The leaves contain

Tephrosia vogelii contain a chemical called rotenone which can be used as an insecticide to control pests like aphids, caterpillars, beetles, mites and termites. The leaves contain 15% of tephrosin while seeds contain 30%. Therefore it is a shrub which should be planted by farmers for its insecticidal properties.

