

Terminalia brownii

Combretaceae

Indigenous

- Common names:** Chag: mpoke, mpuko; Fiome: bukuumo; **Lugu:** mvumba; Maasai: olbugoi, olbukoi; **Rangi:** mwanya.
- Ecology:** This is one of the very useful trees of semi-arid areas in Zaire, Kenya, Nigeria, Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia. It is found in deciduous woodland, bushland, wooded grassland and riverine vegetation, 730-2,000 m. In Tanzania it is found in Kilimanjaro, Kondoia and Kilosa, growing best in well-drained soils.
- Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, timber (bedsteads), poles, posts, tool handles, utensils (mortars, pestles), medicine (leaves, bark), fodder (leafy branches), mulch, soil improvement, shade, dye.
- Description:** A tree 7-13 m high with a **rounded crown**, in layers, foliage drooping. **BARK:** dark grey, longitudinally fissured, thick and fibrous. **LEAVES:** spirally arranged, at ends of branchlets, oval, 6-16 **cm long, wider at tip, pointed or notched**, edge wavy, side veins clear, young leaves fresh green, old leaves red before leaf fall; **stalk and young leaves hairy below**. **FLOWERS:** white or cream, in spikes to 12 cm, with an unpleasant smell. **FRUIT:** small and winged, reddish-purple, 3.5-5.5 cm long, **tip rounded or notched**, narrowed to base.
- Propagation:** Seedlings, wildings.
- Seed info.:** About 1,800 winged fruits per kg. Fruit are ready for collection if the wings break off easily. Shake the tree to collect on -the ground then dry for about a week. Germination good and fast for fresh seeds—about 30% in 60-90 days.
- treatment:** remove the wings; the woody covering can be nicked very carefully to increase germination.
- storage:** can retain viability for a long period if kept dry.
- Management:** A fairly fast-growing tree on moist sites; pollarding, coppicing.
- Remarks:** A tree with good potential for agroforestry in semi-arid areas as it is termite and drought resistant. Leaves are used as medicine for stomach ache and diarrhoea in both humans and livestock. In spite of its dense canopy, crops grow well in its shade. The yellow-brown timber, medium hard but light, is highly valued for house construction, etc. The bark is useful as fuel.

