

Treculia africana

Moraceae

Indigenous

Common names: Eng: African breadfruit, wild jackfruit; **Haya:** mbungu; Lugu: ezeya, mjaya; **Mate:** maya.

Ecology: A fruit tree of riverine forest in tropical Africa, Madagascar, Uganda and Tanzania, 0-1,200 m. In Tanzania it is found in Bukoba (Munene Forest Reserve), Kilosa (Kidodi), Morogoro (Sanje Forest Reserve), East Usambara (Amani) and Ruvuma (Mbinga).

Uses: Firewood, timber, food (seed), fodder (leaves), shade, mulch, soil conservation.

Description: An evergreen tree 15-30 m, up to 50 m, with a dense spreading crown and a fluted trunk. **BARK:** grey, smooth thick, exuding **white latex** when cut, which later **turns rusty-red**. **LEAVES:** simple, alternate, **very large, about 30 x 14 cm** (up to 50 x 20 cm), dark green, smooth above, tough, paler below with some hairs on the **10-18 pairs of clear veins, tip pointed, a short stalk** to 1.5 cm. Young leaves red or yellow. **FLOWERS:** Flower head brown-yellow, **rounded, 2.5-10.0 cm across**, male and female usually separate, growing **beside leaves** (axillary) or **on older wood** down to the trunk. **FRUIT:** compound, **rounded, very large, up to 30 cm across**, on the trunk or main branches, containing many orange seeds, about 1 cm, buried in spongy pulp of the fruit. The outer surface is covered with rough pointed outgrowths.

Propagation: Seedlings, but not well known.

Seed info.: No. of seeds per kg: 4,500-5,000. Germination rate not well known.

treatment: not necessary.

storage: perishable.

Management: A fairly fast-growing tree.

Remarks: A tree with potential for domestication on farmlands in valleys and riverine areas. The seeds can be dried, fried and eaten.

Treculia africana

Moraceae

