

Uapaca sansibarica

Euphorbiaceae

Indigenous

Nyanja: Kasokolowe, katoto, kansima

Ecology: Found in wooded grasslands in eastern and central Africa from southern Sudan to Mozambique. One of four *Uapaca* species in Zambia, this one occurs in almost all parts of the country except Western Province and Kalomo District. It is commonly found in lake basin chipya (Bangweulu) and frequently occurs on dambo margins throughout the region as well as in plateau miombo woodland.

Uses: Firewood, poles, **food** (fruit), medicine (roots, bark, leaves), fodder (fruit, leaves), bee forage, dye (roots).

Description: A small semi-deciduous tree to 14 m high, often less, the crown heavy, flat to rounded. **BARK:** grey-black, smooth then **cracked into small square or oblong scales**. **LEAVES:** alternate and simple, **leathery, shiny dark green in terminal tufts, about 12 cm long, wider at tip than base, tip rounded**, base narrowed to a stalk 1–2 cm, duller below with yellow veins. **FLOWERS:** male and female separate on the same tree: male flowers surrounded by leafy bracts, **in stalked clusters, female flowers solitary and stalked**—both **yellow-green**, January–March. **FRUIT:** rounded, **orange-brown and fleshy to 2 cm**, containing 3 seeds, about 1 cm, June–October. The edible flesh is yellow, jelly-like and sweet.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings.

Seed: –

treatment: Not necessary as it germinates easily.

storage: Not recommended.

Management: Coppicing, pollarding, lopping; protection of wildings and seedlings from fires, wildlife and livestock.

Remarks: Its poles are remarkably resistant to termites, borers and fungi. Roots, bark and leaves are used in local medicine. Scrapings from the roots yield a blue dye when boiled.

