

Vangueria madagascariensis (V. acutiloba)

Rubiaceae

Indigenous

- Common names: Arusha: engumi, loshoro; **Bara:** babaxchet, barangu, malharimog; Eng: common wild medlar; **Fipa:** msada; Gogo: msada; **Hehe:** msambalawe; **Kere:** mfitanda; **Maasai:** engumi; **Mate:** lindikiti; Nyam: msada; **Nyat:** mulade, mulade mujenguma; Nyir: mkungu-lusuli; **Rangi:** muviru; Swah: mviru.
- Ecology: The species is commonly found in evergreen forest, riverine forest and woodland, bushland and wooded grassland, 0-2,130 m. In Tanzania it is very widespread, but most common in Mbulu, Kilimanjaro, Manyoni, Iringa, Tabora, Lindi, Songea and Zanzibar Island. It is also widespread in Africa from Ghana to South Africa, and in India and Australia.
- Uses: Firewood, charcoal, building poles, tool handles, carving (spoons), bee forage, medicine (roots, bark), food (fruit).
- Description: A shrub or small tree 2-15 m tall with many branches and spreading crown (generally less hairy than *V. infausta*). BARK: grey or dark grey, smooth. LEAVES: simple, opposite 8-28 cm long, 3-15 cm wide, **shiny green above**, slightly hairy below. FLOWERS: greenish yellow, yellow or cream, smooth or a with few hairs at the throat, sweet scented. FRUIT: **rounded**, very smooth and shiny, 2.5-5.0 cm diameter, greenish when immature, changing to yellowish **brown when ripe**, contains 4-5 woody seeds up to 1.6 cm long.
- Propagation: Seedlings, suckers.
- Seed info.: No. of seeds per kg: 500-600. Seeds have a very hard seed coat and germinate well but sporadically—up to 6 weeks, treatment: nick the seed.
- storage: can retain viability up to a year if dried properly.
- Management: Coppicing, pruning.
- Remarks: A very promising and popular tree in village farmland. A root extract is used to treat worms.

