

Zanthoxylum chalybeum

Rutaceae

Indigenous

Common names: **Arusha:** oluisuki; **Bara:** wapkan; **Eng:** knobwood; **Fiome:** morungi; **Fipa:** popwe; **Goro:** morungi; **Haya:** entare yeirungo; **Lugu:** mhunungu; **Mbug:** molongo; **Rangi:** mulungu; **Swah:** mjafari; **Zara:** mnungu.

Ecology: A deciduous tree of medium to low altitudes in dry woodland or grassland, often on termite mounds, from Ethiopia to Southern Africa, 0-1,500 m.

Uses: Firewood, utensils (spoons, combs), carving, food (leaves), medicine (leaves, bark, roots), stamps from cork.

Description: A spiny deciduous shrub or tree to 8 m, the crown rounded but open. The bole has characteristic **large, conical woody knobs with sharp prickles**. **BARK:** pale grey smooth, **dark scales and prickles protect buds**. **LEAVES:** compound, a strong **lemon smell if crushed, the leaf stalk with hooked prickles below**, 6-9 pairs of shiny leaflets. **FLOWERS:** yellow-green in short sprays below leaves on new branchlets. **FRUIT:** **red-brown-purple, like berries**, open to release **shiny black seeds**.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings.

Seed info.: No. of seeds per kg: about 30,000.

treatment: not necessary.

storage: short lived; lose viability within a few weeks.

Management: The wood is of little value.

Remarks: *Zanthoxylum holtzianum* grows with this species all along the coast into Somalia and can grow on coral, 0-230 m. It is very similar but smaller, sometimes a climber. It is used for carving and for medicine.

