

# Rhus natalensis

Anacardiaceae

## Indigenous

- Common names: Arusha: ormisigiyoi; Fipa: msangula; **Haya:** omusheshe, msagara; Hehe: mtunumbi; **Iraqw:** datei, mstunga, sirongi; **Kere:** musheshe; **Kuria:** msangura; **Maasai:** ol mesigie; Rangi: msakasaka; Samb: mhunguru, mhunguru-mhomba; Suku: mhunguru; Swah: mkumba; **Zinza:** msense.
- Ecology: A bush or tree widespread in Africa, usually in wooded savannah, on forest edges and beside rivers but also on coastal dunes in southern Africa, 0-3,000 m. Found in Tanzania in all but the driest parts. *Rhus* spp. are quick growing and drought resistant.
- Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber, farm tools, food (fruit), medicine (bark, leaves), toothbrushes (stems).
- Description: A many-branched **shrub, tending to scramble**, or a rounded tree to 8 m. BARK: grey-brown, branchlets **pale and dotted with breathing pores**, branches angular. LEAVES: **three leaflets, the central largest to 9 cm**, usually dark green, rather **leathery**, hairless, sometimes **toothed**, very variable, on a stalk 2-4 cm. FLOWERS: green-yellow in loose heads to 15 cm. FRUIT: about 5 mm, oblong to kidney shaped, **smooth red with thin flesh**, edible, later dry and papery, falling easily.
- Propagation: Seedlings.
- Seed info.: No. of seeds per kg: 26,000-30,000. Germination is fast and good.
- treatment: not necessary
- storage: can retain viability for only a short period (3 months) **at** room temperature.
- Management: Slow growing; coppicing.
- Remarks:

