

Ozoroa insignis (Heeria reticulata)

Anacardiaceae

Indigenous

- Common names: Arusha: olkunonoi; Eng: tropical resin tree; **Goro**: burthi; Haya: muhva; Kuria: kirangaru, mchale; **Lugu**: mpondela, mpondelo; Nyam: mkalakala, mwembe mwitu; **Nyiha**: karati; Suku: mkala; Swah: mwalika, mzabibu mwitu; Yao: nambono; Zigua: mkalakala; **Zinza**: mcherenge.
- Ecology: Widely distributed from southern Ethiopia, Zaire to southern Africa, 0-2,200 m. It grows in coastal bushland as well as near Lake Victoria and in Babati district, often in rocky places and extending to forest edges and higher-rainfall woodlands.
- Uses: Timber (furniture), medicine (bark, roots, twigs), gum (fruit).
- Description: A small, semi-deciduous shrub or tree to 14 m, the bole often twisted, with a light rounded crown. BARK: grey, corky, widely grooved and scaly, **exuding drops of creamy resin** if cut. The branchlets are covered with yellow hairs. LEAVES: leathery, often 3 together, very variable, 5-17 cm long, dull green above, **but very hairy below, the veins clear and parallel, the edge rolled under.** FLOWERS: small, cream-white in hairy sprays to 17 cm. FRUIT: small, red, bean-shaped, flattened, shiny **black when ripe**, on branched sprays, one very hard seed inside.
- Propagation Seedlings, root suckers.
- Seed info.: No. of seeds per kg: 35,000-40,000. Germination is good, completed after 3 weeks,
- treatment: not necessary
- storage: seeds should not be stored as viability is lost within a few weeks.
- Management: Coppicing.
- Remarks: The dark red wood is easy to work, tough, durable and termite resistant.

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