

Xeroderris stuhlmannii

Papilionoideae

Indigenous

Common names: **Eng:** wing pod; Gogo: mnyinga; Nyam: munyenyene; Nyat: mjimbua, mjohou; **Nyir.** munene; **Sand:** leba; **Suku:** njundu; **Swah:** mnyinga, mondogondo; **Zara:** mHINGI; **Zigua:** mnyinga, munyinga.

Ecology: A tree found in Senegal, Nigeria, Kenya and southwards to South Africa. It occurs in deciduous woodland and bushland particularly on well-drained soils, 100-1,650 m. In Tanzania common in all regions except highland areas.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, utensils (mortars, stools, milk pots), carving, fodder (leaves, fruit), famine food (seeds), medicine (sap, roots), shade, red dye (sap).

Description: A medium or large deciduous tree, 6-10 m, with spreading rounded crown. **BARK:** grey or grey-brown, smooth to rough with longitudinal flakes exuding blood-red sap when slashed. **LEAVES:** compound with **4-9 pairs of leaflets**. The leaflets are dark green, crowded near the tips of branchlets, **when young covered with silky hairs**. **FLOWERS:** small, **white or greenish white, pea shaped**, profusely borne on many-branched flowering stalks. Buds rusty brown. **FRUIT:** **a large flat pod 9-18 cm long**, swollen over the seed cases and with **distinctive ridged vein** around the indehiscent pod. Outside this is a **hard wing up to 1 cm wide**.

Propagation: Seedlings, suckers.

Seed info.: No. of seeds per kg: 3,500-5,000. Germination 40-70% after two weeks,

treatment: not necessary.

storage:

Management: Pruning, pollarding, coppicing.

Remarks: This tree has the synonym *Ostryoderris stuhlmannii*. It can grow in poor sandy soils and is drought resistant. **The seeds can only be eaten as famine food after long boiling as they are poisonous when raw. Both leaves and fruit are eaten by cattle and game, however. The red gum from the bark has been used for tanning. The red sap is used to treat wounds and the roots are used for stomach ache.**

