

# Conocarpus lancifolius

*Combretaceae*

Somalia

**Common names:**

**Ecology:**

A tall tree often very common in dry river valleys (wadis) in Somalia. It is now cultivated as it is one of the fastest growing local trees, 0-1,000 m. It tolerates sandy, saline and coral soils. Planted at the coast in Tanzania **where** its growth is fair.

**Uses:**

Firewood, charcoal, timber, boats, poles, posts, carving fodder (leaves), bee forage, shade, ornamental, **mulch, soil** conservation, windbreak.

**Description:**

A shady evergreen to 20 m, with upward spreading branches, short bole and **dense, fresh green foliage**. **BARK:** grey-brown, fissured. **LEAVES:** smooth and shiny, **to 10 cm long, narrowing towards the base, in** dense spirals. **FLOWERS:** **yellow-green, in round heads** on branched stalks, slightly fragrant. **FRUIT:** in **dry, round, greenish heads**, cone like, containing tiny, scale-like hard seeds.

**Propagation:**

Seedlings, cuttings.

**Seed info.:**

No. of seeds per kg: 400,000-1,700,000. Very small and difficult to extract.

**treatment:**

not necessary. Seeds are difficult to germinate. They should be floated in a tilted tray with soil at one end. The seeds will germinate and root in the soil. (This method is used at Baobab Farm, Bamburi, near Mombasa, Kenya.)

**storage:**

seed does not store; fresh seed should **be** used.

**Management:**

Very fast growing; can be coppiced.

**Remarks:**

The tree is planted in Sudan for reforestation, shelter and green belts. The wood is **light coloured and medium** heavy. Heavily browsed by antelopes, hence difficult to establish in certain areas.

