

Julbernardia globiflora

Caesalpinioideae

Indigenous

- Common names:** Eng: julbernardia; Fipa: msima; Gogo: mguji; Hehe mpinati; Iraqw: hewasi; Mwera: mchenga; Nyam: muva; muba; Rangi: mhangala, mtata; Sand: innee; Swah: mtondo; Zigua: mhangala, mtorvdoro.
- Ecology:** A tree found in miombo woodlands, 500-2,000 m. It is also found in Zaire, Mozambique, Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Botswana, South Africa and Angola.
- Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, tool handles, bee hives, medicine (bark), bee forage, storage pots (bark), ropes (bark), sacks (bark).
- Description:** A well-branched deciduous tree 5-15 m high with flat or rounded spreading crown and large, heavy branches. Bole often crooked. **BARK:** pale grey, becoming dark grey and rough with age. **LEAVES:** compound with 4-8 pairs of opposite leaflets, dark green, leathery, tip rounded or notched, finely hairy on both sides, 3-5 cm long, 1-4 cm wide. The edge has fine white hairs. Middle leaflets are the largest, leaf stalk rounded not grooved. **FLOWERS:** very fragrant, yellow-white, small but in clusters 6-30 cm long, stalks hairy, brown. **FRUIT:** flat, dark brown, velvety pod, 4-9 cm long, 2-3 cm wide. Dehiscent, containing up to 4 seeds. Pods are square ended and held up above the leaves on top of the tree. They split explosively when mature.
- Propagation** Seedlings, suckers.
- Seed info.:** No. of seeds per kg: 1,500-2,000. Germination is very good and fast.
- treatment:** soak in cold water for 12 hours.
- storage:** can keep viability up to a year at room temperature if kept dry and free from insects.
- Management:** Slow growing during the first few years and fast afterwards. Coppice shoots and root suckers grow very fast.
- Remarks:** An important and common tree in the mixed deciduous woodland of central Africa where it is co-dominant with *Brachystegia spiciformis*. The bark has been used as a cough medicine and to treat snake bite. Honey from the flowers is of the highest quality and has good flow.

