

# Markhamia obtusifolia

*Bignoniaceae*

Indigenous

- Common names:** Bende: mpapa; Bond: myuyu; Eng: golden bean tree; Gogo: mguoguo; Ha: mkola; Hehe: mguoguo, mguvani; Mwera: ngeba; Nyam: mbapa; Nyat: mlyati, mulati; Rangi: itunene; Samb: myuyu; Suku: mbapa, mtalabanda; Swah: mtarawanda; Zigua: myuyu.
- Ecology:** A tree occurring at medium to low altitudes from Kenya to South Africa in open woodlands and at margins of lowland evergreen forests. In Tanzania it is common in Mwanza, Tabora, Dodoma, Singida, Morogoro, Iringa, and Ruvuma.
- Uses:** Firewood, timber (furniture), building poles, tool handles, utensils, fodder (leaves), medicine (fruit, roots), ornamental, rope (bark), bird traps (twigs, bark).
- Description:** A much-branched deciduous shrub or small tree, 3-10 m high. **BARK:** light brown-grey, smooth with longitudinal strips peeling off in old trees. **LEAVES:** large, compound with up to 5 pairs of leaflets plus one terminal leaflet, 8-14 cm long, 4–6 cm wide, covered with dense golden hairs. Leaf stalks up to 8 cm long. **FLOWERS:** showy yellow, red-brown lines on 3 of the 5 petal lobes, buds and stalks hairy, at the end of twigs. **FRUIT:** long, flattened capsule up to 8.5 cm, usually smaller, covered with dense soft golden hairs, dehiscent, containing many winged seeds.
- Propagation:** Seedlings and root suckers.
- Seed info.:** No. of seeds per kg: about 32,000. Germination of fresh seed is good and completed after 2 weeks,
- treatment:** not necessary.
- storage:** can retain viability for a short period (3 months) at room temperature.
- Management:** Fairly fast growing; can be planted inside and along farm boundaries, coppicing.
- Remarks:** This tree can be grown with crops on farmlands. It may be bare for many months but is attractive when in flower. Later the fruit capsules often remain on the tree. The timber is very pale, heavy and durable.

