## Ormocarpum trachycarpum (O. mimosoides) Papilionoideae

Indigenous

Common names: Hehe: lungutiwa, mtimbwi; Nyam: mkondwampuli; Sangu:

kipula; Suku: mkondwampuli.

Ecology: A plant of deciduous woodland, grassland and

Acacia-Commiphora woodland, especially in rocky places, 950-1,800 m. Requires 600-900 mm rainfall annually.

Uses: Tool handles, fodder (leaves), food (leaves), withes,

medicine (leaves).

**Description:** A shrub or small tree to 6 m with drooping branches. Two

kinds of hairs: soft white hairs on young twigs, leaf and flower stalks; sometimes mixed with stiff dark hairs swollen at the base—usually seen on older twigs. BARK: grey, rough and corky. LEAVES: compound, clustered on side shoots, leaf stalk to 5 cm with 9-15 grey-green narrow leaflets, each to 1.5 cm, tip rounded, white below, with a small hair-like tip. FLOWERS: 1-4 pea-shaped, on a stalk to 3 cm, cream-green with red-purple veins; petals persist as dry brown clusters. FRUIT: hairy pods, more or less straight to 6.5 cm, covered all over with stiff yellow-brown "tubercles", quite large, to 8 mm long. Pods look like small

hairy caterpillars and break up to release seed.

**Propagation** Seedlings, root suckers.

**Seed info.:** Small, about 80,000 seeds per kg. Germination of fresh

seeds is very good and completed within 3 weeks.

**treatment:** soak in cold water for 12 hours.

storage: can retain viability for a long time if kept dry and free from

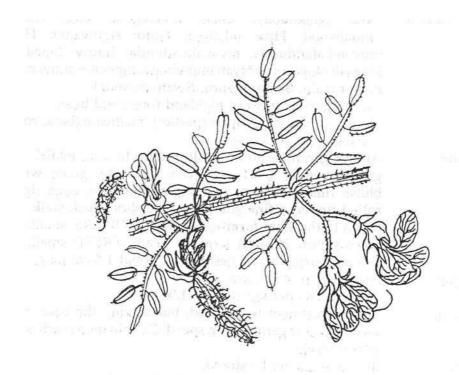
insects.

**Management:** Slow growing.

**Remarks:** Much favoured for its fodder and as a vegetable. Leaves are

used to treat stomach ache and wounds.

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Remarks: Carpadangered free basan, prov. ex ex Population

