

## Indigenous

- Common names:** **Eng:** silver oak; **Maasai:** ol magogo; **Swah:** muhuhu, mkalambati, mkarambati; **Zigua:** mkarambati, mhugwe, muhugwe, mkarambaki.
- Ecology:** In Tanzania found both in coastal forests and in dry highlands. Prefers good rainfall and red soils. Very common in the coastal dry evergreen woodland. Also found in Kenya, Malawi, Zambia and South Africa, 0-2,000 m.
- Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, timber, poles, posts, tool handles, carving.
- Description:** A tree 15-30 m, the trunk to 60 cm across, with **steeply ascending branches forming a narrow crown**. BARK grey-brown, vertical cracks, fibrous. LEAVES: distinctive, spear-shaped to **10 cm, sharply tipped**, in upright bunches, shoots with cream hairs, **mature leaves white hairy below but shiny above, edge with few to many sharp teeth** FLOWERS: male and female on different trees, small and white in furry clusters. FRUIT: **tiny hairy seeds** falling to look like white fluff on the ground.
- Propagation:** Seedlings, wildings.
- Seed info.:** No. of seeds per kg: 300,000-500,000. Seeds are difficult to collect because of the small size. Many are eaten by insects. Poor germination, 2-10%.
- treatment:** not necessary but mix seeds with moist sand before sowing as they are easily blown away by the wind.
- storage:** seed does not store well. Viability lost after 6 months at room temperature.
- Management:** Growth rate is slow to medium. Grows well with other trees but poorly in the open.
- Remarks:** A good tree for long-term investment by farmers. The timber has a good brown colour with a characteristic smell, much favoured by carvers. It is also durable and has been used for flooring.

