

Bridelia micrantha

Euphorbiaceae

Indigenous

- Common names: Bond: mwiza; Chag: mwaru, monde, marie; Eng: bridelia; Fipa: munyamaji, mlangali; Haya: mshumako, mshamako, mukuwe; Hehe: mwesa; Iraqw: intsalmo; Lugu: msumba, mwiza; Mate: myenda; Nguu: mkolakole; Nyak: mwisya; Nyiha: sengamino; Pare: mwira; Samb: muiza, mwiza; Swah: mkarati, mtutu; Zara: mkarangatanga; Zigua: mweza; Zinza: msamiko.
- Ecology: A tree of the high-potential areas in East and Southern Africa, in forests by rivers, forest edges or open woodland, 0-2,200 m. It does well in a wide variety of climates.
- Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber, poles (granaries), tool handled food (fruit), medicine (bark and roots), fodder (leaves), mulch, shade.
- Description: a medium-sized leafy evergreen tree with dense spreading crown, to 13 m. BARK: grey-brown flaking with age, young stems zig-zag, dotted with paler breathing pores. LEAVES: appear compound but actually alternate along branched dark shiny green above, about 12 cm long, veins parallel extending along margin, leaf stalks slightly hairy. FLOWERS: small and yellowish, bunched in leaf axils, male and female flowers on different trees. FRUIT: soft, purple-black, oval up to 8 mm, sweet and edible when ripe.
- Propagation: Seedlings, wildings.
- Seed info.: Prolific seeder. No.. of seeds per kg: 19,000-19,500. Germination is very good and uniform, up to 90-100% after 20-25 days.
- treatment: not necessary, use only fresh seed.
- storage: short viability (oily seeds), do not store.
- Management: Fast growing on good sites; pollarding, coppicing.
- Remarks: The species is becoming scarce due to over-exploitation Not planted near homesteads as it attracts caterpillars and birds. The wood is resistant to termites. Commonly intercropped and managed by small-scale farmers. Goats will eat the bark and leaves. People commonly use this tree for its fruit and to make medicine.

