

# Euphorbia tirucalli

# Euphorbiaceae

Indigenous

- Common names:** **Bond:** sapu; **Eng:** finger euphorbia; **Gogo:** manyala, manyara; **Goro:** mulughwai; **Hehe:** mgofu; **Iraqw:** manyari; **Lugu:** kigomvu; **Maasai:** ol aile, oloile; **Nyam:** manyala; **Nyat:** munyaa; **Rangi:** luwundu, mnyala; **Samb:** sapu; **Suku:** inala, mhunga shalo, munyala; **Swah:** mnyara, mwasi, utupa; **Zinza:** mangara, mnyara.
- Ecology:** A succulent shrub frequently planted as a *botna* fence in dry areas but also found as a tree. It may have come from India but is now widespread and naturalized throughout Africa. In Tanzania it is common in livestock-rearing areas (Arusha, Dodoma, Mwanza and Singida).
- Uses:** Firewood, medicine (young branches), fish poison (latex), live fence, boundary marker.
- Description:** A dense straight-stemmed tree to 6 m or more, **the branchlets are smooth green, cylindrical in dense masses.** LEAVES: small, present on young stems, soon dropping. FLOWERS: yellow-cream, small, in dense clusters. FRUIT: **three-part capsules, hard, purple-green,** less than 1 cm across.
- Propagation:** Cuttings.
- Seed info.:** Not important.
- treatment:**
- storage:**
- Management:** Fast growing; coppicing, trim and top prune to make a hedge.
- Remarks:** Latex is very poisonous and dangerous to the eyes. Human milk is said to be a remedy if the latex gets into the eyes. Medicine from the plant must be used with extreme care due to its high toxicity.

