

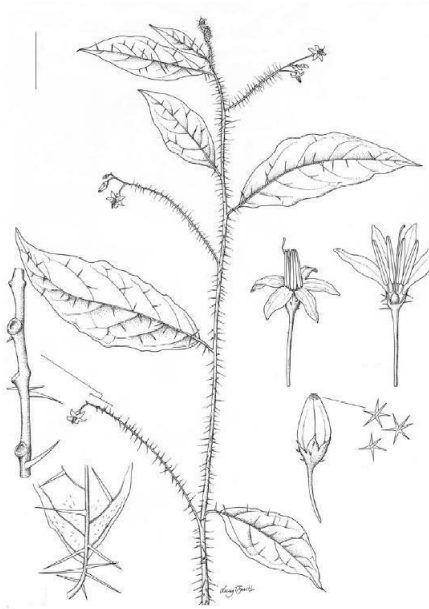
Nyanya miba

Status global: **Critically Endangered (CR)** Status local: **Locally rare**

This shrub was thought to be probably extinct, but a few individuals were discovered in Kimboza in late 2023.

Striking identification features

- prickly leaves
- flexible prickly stems



Description

Stature: erect or scrambling shrub.
Size: to about 1 m high.
Bark: flexible prickly stems.
Leaves: alternate prickly leaves (9-12 x 2.5-4.5 cm).
Flower: lateral inflorescences with 10-15 flowers.
Fruit: small (ca 9 mm long), red when ripe containing about 20 seeds.
Seed: -



Status and distribution: The only collection of this species was made in 2000 at an unspecified location in or around Ruvu Forest Reserve and it was described in 2010. Despite an extensive field search in March 2010 the species was not relocated and was thought to be probably extinct. In late 2023 a few specimens were located inside Kimboza.

Habitat requirements: It grows in fairly open conditions on limestone outcrops in hollows or large crevices where organic matter accumulates. It is threatened by fires and the spread of the invasive neotropical tree *Cedrela odorata*.

Phenology: Recorded as flowering in July 2000, October, November and December 2023. Observed as fruiting in October 2023.

Reproduction: -

Local uses: None are known.

Sources and further information

Botanical description: Vorontsova & Mbago (2010)

Herbarium specimens:

Mhoro UMBCP 113 (K, MO) 2000-07-17, type, fl

Field records:

Vorontsova, M.S. & Mbago, F.M. (2010) New *Solanum* species from Tanzanian coastal forests may already be extinct. *J. E. Afr. Nat. Hist.* 99, 227-234.



The rocky habitat where *S. ruvu* grows. Note that in the foreground the ground vegetation has repeatedly been destroyed by fires.