

Indigenous

Trade names: Musizi.

Common names: **Luganda:** Musizi **Luganda, dialect Lusese:** Musinde **Rukiga:** Muguruka **Runyoro:** Muhongera.

Ecology: A large tree found in East, Central and West Africa in rain forest and riverine forest. In Uganda, it grows in low moist tropical forests, colonizing forest, forest edge and mixed forest, e.g. Budongo and Mabira.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber (furniture, light construction), poles, veneer/plywood, fodder (fruit), shade (tea and coffee), ornamental (avenue tree).

Description: A leafy semi-deciduous tree 10-30 m, often a clear bole to 10 m, the **branches rather horizontal**, the crown flattened when young but more rounded with age. **BARK:** pale grey- brown, branchlets dotted with breathing pores, grooved with age. **LEAVES:** appear compound but alternate on the twig, on **stalks to 1 cm**, each **long and shiny, pointed, to 14 cm**, the edge with **characteristic well-spaced rounded teeth**. **FLOWERS:** small and green in heads beside leaves. **FRUIT:** oval, to 3 cm long, fleshy and yellow, turning purple, with 1-2 hard seeds.

Propagation Seedlings (sow seed in pots), wildings, direct sowing at site.

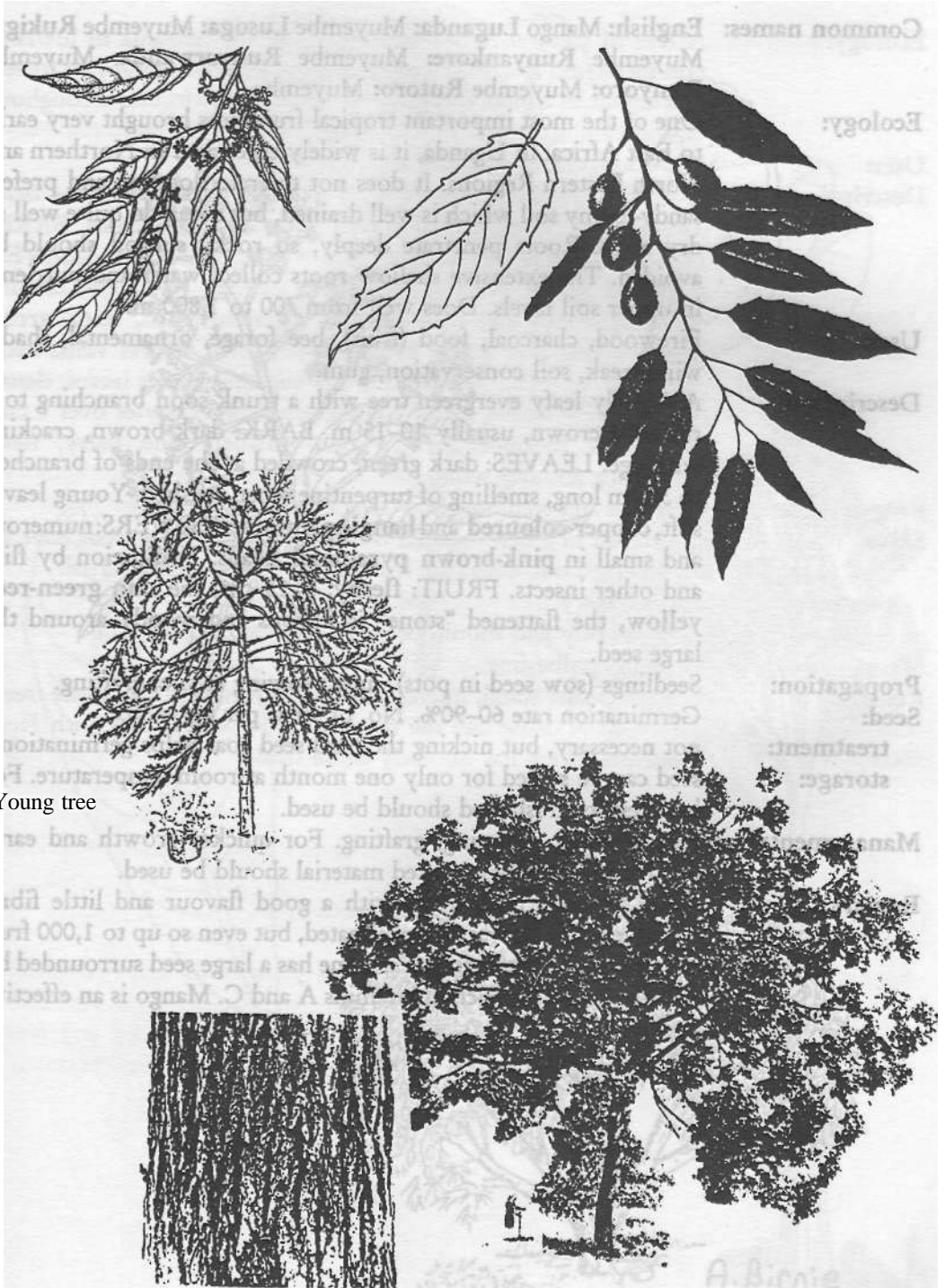
Seed: No. of seeds per kg: 500. Low germination rate (20-55%).

treatment: none, soak in cold water for 12 hours, or nick seed,

storage: can be stored for up to 5 months.

Management: Fast growing; coppicing while young.

Remarks: One of the quickest growing timber trees, maturing in 20 years. It is grown in pure stands, as an avenue tree and also intercropped with banana, coffee and cocoa. The timber is not resistant to fungi or termites so rots quickly. Hornbills and chimpanzees eat the fruit and disperse the seed.



Young tree