

Indigenous

Trade name: Elgon olive.

Common names: **English:** Elgon olive, Elgon teak **Luganda:** Musuga **Luganda, dialect Buddu:** Mutonganyi **Lugishu:** Gibengeyi **Rukiga:** Mugando **Runyankore:** Musoko **Rutoro:** Musoko, musodo **Sebei:** Pakeriaondet.

Ecology: A tree with attractive timber found in Angola, Zambia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda in lowland rain forest to upland dry evergreen forest, 750-2,000 m. In Uganda it grows in lower montane and moist lowland tropical forests and is abundant in Itwara Forest and central Kibale. Named Elgon olive, it is now much depleted on that mountain.'

Uses: Firewood (branches), charcoal, timber (furniture, veneer), medicine (bark).

Description: The tree can reach 25 m with a straight bole, large ascending branches and a small crown. Fairly **large buttresses usually present. BARK: pale grey to white**, grooved vertically. **LEAVES:** opposite and oval, **to 5 x 15 cm**, on a **stalk 2-3 cm**, the **tip drawn out and pointed**. **FLOWERS:** very many, small and white, in sprays to 8 cm long. **FRUIT:** narrow, oval, 1 cm long.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings.

Seed: No. of seeds per kg: about 3,000.

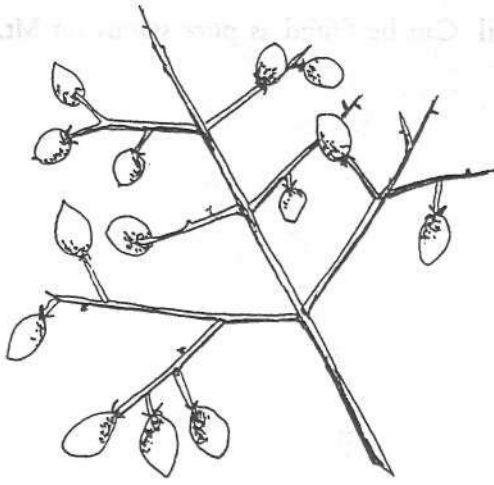
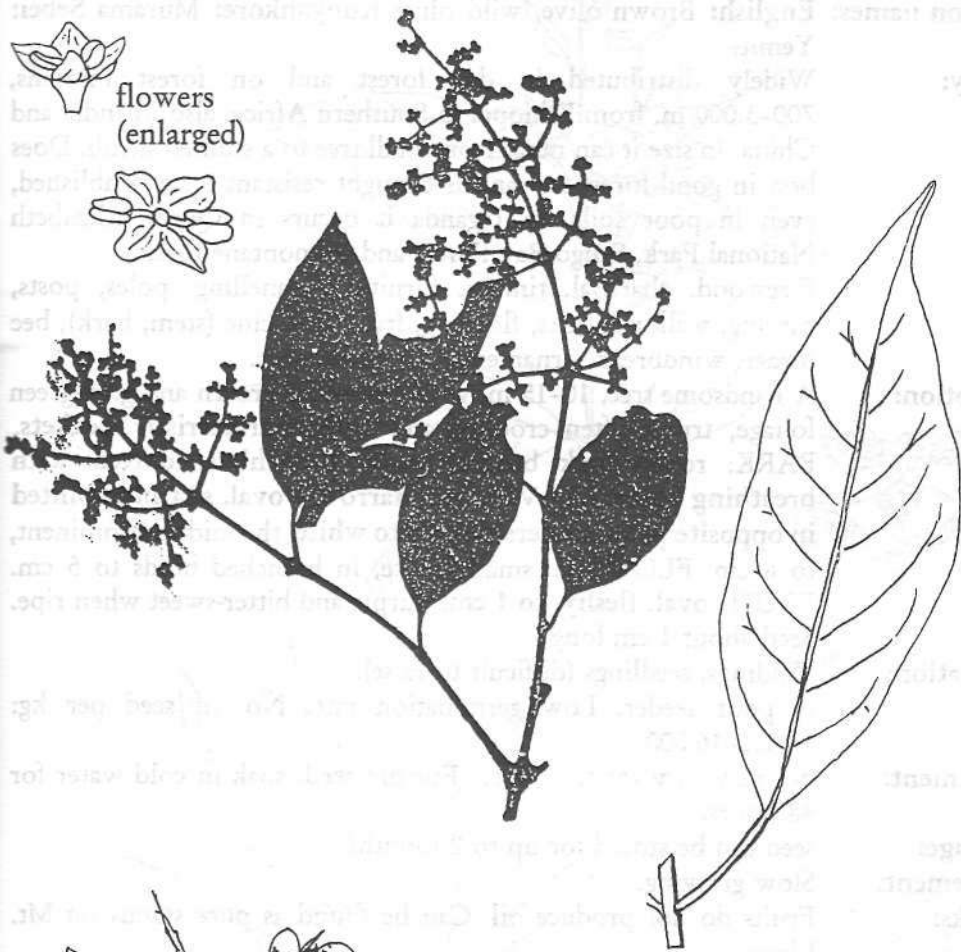
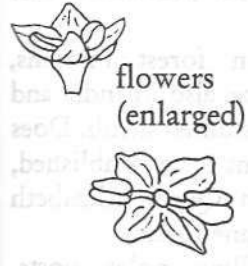
treatment: soak seed in cold water,

storage: seed can be stored.

Management: Slow growing. Lopping, pollarding.

Remarks: A very valuable termite-resistant timber tree. The timber is pale golden brown with paler streaks and is used for high-class furniture. It has been re-planted on Mt. Elgon.

Olea capensis subsp. *welwitschii* (*O. welwitschii*) *Oleaceae*



A. Birnie

