

Indigenous

Common names: Luo J: Osweri **Lusoga:** Kivunambasa **Rukiga:** Mukarakare.

Ecology: A small tree of evergreen forests, especially at edges of riparian forest as it is light demanding. Also occurs in forest remnants and in wooded grassland and bushland from Kenya south to Mozambique. In Uganda, it grows in thickets, forest edges, gallery forests and mixed forests. It is abundant in Queen Elizabeth National Park and on the edges of Maramagambo forest. In grasslands it often occurs in thickets on termite mounds.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, ornamental.

Description: A shrub or small tree 2-12 m, sometimes weak stemmed and scrambling. **Young branchlets densely hairy.** BARK: light grey-brown, rough to shallow fissures. LEAVES: shiny dark green, **softly hairy below, oval but wider towards the tip**, pointed or rounded, up to 15 cm long, narrowed to the base, a stalk about 1 cm 6-11 lateral veins. FLOWERS: in **dense clusters of 6-8 flowers, cream-white then yellow** with age, faintly fragrant, each one **2.5 cm across with 5 narrow strap-like petals** and a prominent orange stamen tube and styles in the centre. The cup-like calyx and flower stalks are hairy. FRUIT: a **round flattened capsule 1.5 cm across with many sections**, green drying brown, **distinctive when it splits open like a woody star** setting free the **shiny seeds, dark red to black with a soft red aril.**

Propagation: Direct sowing on site, wildings, seedlings (sow seed in pots). .
Seed: Because of the aril, the seeds are very much liked by birds. It is better to collect the capsules just before they split open and dry them on a polythene sheet so the seeds can be separated later, soaking in cold water overnight may hasten germination, store in sealed containers in a cool place.

treatment:
storage:
Management: Fast growing; coppicing, pollarding.

Remarks: Grows well as a pure stand but since it is deciduous should be planted with an evergreen species if shade is required. It can also be planted as an ornamental around houses.

Turraea robusta

Meliaceae

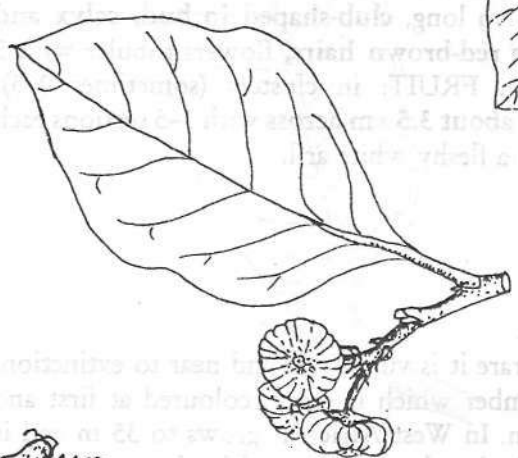
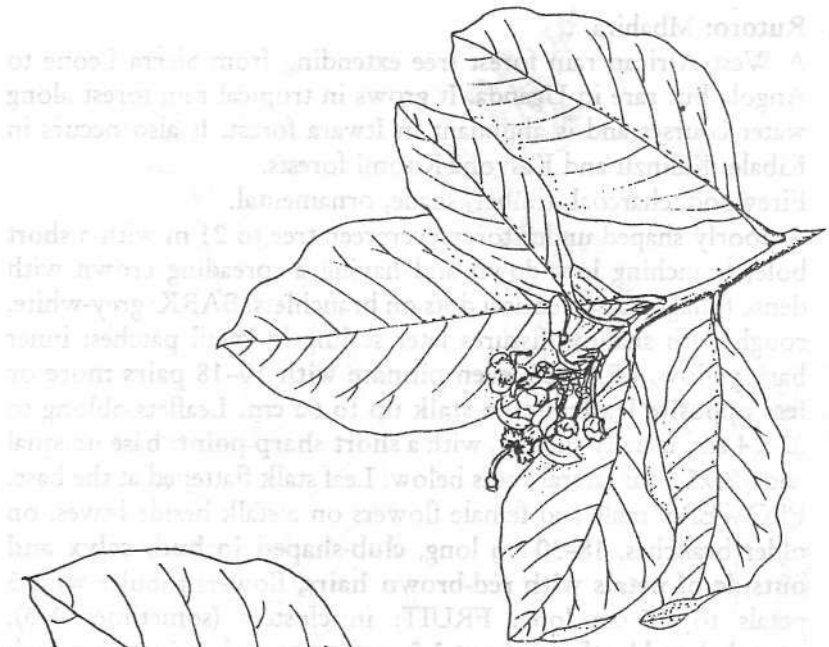
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seeds



empty star-shaped capsule

