

Acacia abyssinica subsp. abyssinica

Mimosaceae

Indigenous

- Common names:** **English:** Flat-top acacia, umbrella thorn **Rukiga:** Munyinya.
- Ecology:** Widely distributed in Uganda, occurring in wooded grassland and in groups among other scattered trees in woodland, 1,500-2,300 m. Most common on Mt. Napak and in the highlands of Kisoro, Rukungiri, Kabale and Kapchorwa Districts.
- Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, poles, posts, tool handles, medicine, fodder, bee forage, shade (for cattle), nitrogen fixation, soil conservation, fence (cut branches).
- Description:** A large **flat-topped** tree to 20 m when mature. **BARK:** Rough, grooved, dark brown. **THORNS:** Very variable, white, straight, short or to 4 cm, sometimes none. **LEAVES:** Bipinnate, **15–36** pairs pinnae when mature, on a stalk to 9 cm, **leaflets tiny.** **FLOWERS:** Very many, **round** heads of **cream** flowers, buds **pink-red.** **FRUIT:** **Pods to 12 cm,** usually **straight,** grey-brown, splitting to set free seed.
- Propagation:** Seedlings (sow seeds in pots), direct sowing at site, root suckers.
- Seed:** Seed quite small, highly susceptible to beetle attack while still in pods. Damaged seeds should be separated by floating. No. of seeds per kg: 16,000-18,000.
- treatment:** soak in cold water or put in hot water, allow to cool and soak for 36-48 hours.
- storage:** seed can be stored for long periods if kept in a cool, dry and insect-free place. Add ash to reduce insect damage.
- Management:** Growth rate is medium. Pollarding, coppicing while young.
- Remarks:** Spreading roots make it unsuitable for providing shade near crops. Drought tolerant and will grow on degraded land and **along** gullies. It makes good fuelwood but the hard wood is difficult to work.

