

Indigenous

**Common names:** **Ateso:** Eregai **Ateso T:** Ebenyo **English:** Wait-a-bit thorn, hook thorn **Lugishu:** Magokwe.

**Ecology:** A low shrubby acacia with a natural range in North and East Africa. Widespread in dry scrub with trees and deciduous bushland. In Uganda it occurs around Nakasongola in Luwero District and in Soroti, Kumi, Moroto and Kotido Districts. Sometimes it is the main species in dry bushland.

**Uses:** Firewood, utensils (pestles), medicine (bark), fodder (pods, twigs, leaves, flowers), bee forage, nitrogen fixation, soil conservation, live fence.

**Description:** A shrub or small tree up to 9 m. **BARK:** pale grey-brown, usually smooth. **THORNS:** distinctive, **small hooked prickles, in pairs, grey with black tips.** **LEAVES:** easy to recognize, unlike most other Acacia, usually **2-3 pairs of blue-green rounded leaflets each to 2 cm.** **FLOWERS:** creamy spikes to 4 cm attracting bees. **FRUIT:** short, wide pods, tapering abruptly at both ends, **flat papery, pale brown-yellow, rarely to 8 cm,** veined, 3 seeds within.

**Propagation:** Direct sowing at site, seedlings.

**Seed:** No. of seeds per kg: about 20,000. Seed germinate in 2-14 days and germination is 50-80% with good seed,

**treatment:** soak in cold water for 12 hours or nick seed coat at cotyledon end of seed.

**storage:** can be stored for long periods if kept dry and insect free. Add ash to reduce insect damage.

**Management:** Coppicing. Slow growing.

**Remarks:** The flowers produce excellent-quality honey. The tree is heavily browsed by game and cattle where few trees grow. Can make impenetrable thickets.

