

Indigenous

**Common names:** **Ateso:** Etek, etekwa **Kwamba:** Musisiya **Luganda:** Mugavu **Lugishu:** Chesovio, kumoluko **Lugwe:** Mubere **Luo A:** Latoligo, ayekayek **Luo J:** Omogi, ober **Luo L:** Itek, bata **Lusoga:** Musita **Madi:** Oyo **Rukiga:** Muyenzayenze **Runyankore:** Musisa, murongo **Runyoro:** Musisa **Rutoro:** Musisa.

**Ecology:** A timber tree found from West Africa to the Sudan and south to Angola, though absent from the eastern and southern parts of Central Africa. It is found throughout Uganda on a variety of soils; common at forest edges, in wooded grassland, woodland and thicket 850-1,680 m. It is a pioneer species requiring light and will not grow in tropical forest with a closed canopy.

**Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, timber, poles, furniture, boat building, medicine (roots and bark), fodder, bee forage, ornamental, shade, nitrogen fixation, toothbrushes, banana ripening.

**Description:** A deciduous tree 6-36 m, **the crown spreading** and flat, the trunk often twisted, any buttresses short and blunt. **BARK:** grey-black, rough and scaling raggedly. Young branchlets rather hairy. **LEAVES:** new growth pale bright green. Bipinnate with **3-6 pairs pinnae** and 6-11 pairs of medium-large leaflets, **all about equal in size, to 3 cm long, hardly one-sided**, narrowly oval-oblong, rounded and often wider at the base, **tip rounded**. **FLOWERS:** very many sweet-smelling white flowers in half-spherical heads, the **stamen filaments red above** but **not or hardly hanging out beyond the flower tube**. **FRUIT:** flat purple-brown pods, often shiny, 14-20 cm long, about 3 cm wide, tip and base narrowed, becoming papery, the few seeds inside about 1 cm, round and flat. **Seedlings, wildings.**

**Propagation:**

**Seed:** Seed is susceptible to beetle attack, often while still on the tree. Good germination rate. The tree is a prolific seeder. About 6,000 seeds per kg.

**treatment:** not necessary for fresh seed. Soak stored seed.

**storage:** seed can be stored for up to one year.

**Management:** Slow-growing; lopping, pollarding.

**Remarks:** In Uganda the tree is used as a prop for food climbers like Dioscorea, passion fruit and Taferia. The Hima community make beautiful milk jars from the wood. The sapwood is soft but the heavy heartwood is hard and durable. The brown timber makes good furniture.

*Albizia coriaria*

*Mimosaceae*

