

Albizia zygia

Mimosaceae

Indigenous

Trade name: Red nongo.

Common names: **Ateso:** Ebatat **Kwamba:** Bulera **Luganda:** Mulongo, nongo **Lugwere:** Mulongo, nongo **Lugishu:** Chiruku, komusovio **Lugwere:** mulongo, nongo **Luo J:** Bedo **Lusoga:** Mulongo, nongo **Rukonjo:** Nkwasi **Runyankore:** Musebega **Runyoro:** Mulongo, nongo **Rutoro:** Mulongo, nongo **Sebei:** Swessu.

Ecology: A tree widespread in tropical Africa from Senegal to the Sudan and into Zaire, found in lowland rain forest, riverine forest and woodlands. A typical secondary-forest tree in West Africa, it is also found in thickets and on forest edges in most areas of the wetter savannah of Uganda, 915-1,370 m.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber, poles, shade, ornamental, nitrogen fixation.

Description: A deciduous tree, usually 20 m (9-30 m) with a **spreading crown of layered foliage**, the trunk often crooked. **BARK:** smooth when young, mature trees with thick brown bark, scaly or cracked. **When cut the outer layer looks like orange peel.** Young branchlets not densely hairy (as in *A. grandibracteata*). **LEAVES:** Bipinnate, usually with **3 clear pairs of pinnae (3-5)** and **2-5 pairs leaflets** on stalks about 9 cm long. The **end leaflets longest, 3-7 cm**, and the basal leaflets are the smallest, 1 cm. **Leaflets are widest at the tip, usually blunt** (pointed in *A. grandibracteata*). Young leaflets have **narrow, leafy stipules** at the base (round in *A. grandibracteata*). **FLOWERS:** In half-spherical heads about 2 cm across with differently coloured male and female flowers, **white-pink**, the **red stamen tubes hanging out 1-2 cm beyond the corolla**. **FRUIT:** Flat, papery, dull orange-red-brown pods about 10 x 2 cm (up to 18 x 4 cm) containing 9-12 oval flat seeds about 1 cm across.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings.

Seed: When pods split open the seeds stick on the sides of the pods and are carried away by the wind. Collect pods just before splitting open.

treatment: soak in water overnight.

storage: Store in a sealed container in a cool place. Add ash to reduce insect damage.

Management: Slow growing; pollarding, coppicing.

Remarks: Farmers preserve this tree in fields as a host for climbing vines, e.g. yams. It does not compete with food crops. It is a useful timber for indoor construction work and furniture but is not termite proof or durable out of doors.

