

Indigenous

**Trade names:** Pattern wood, stool wood, cheese wood.

**Common names:** **Kwamba:** Kigima **Luganda:** Musoga, mukoge, mubajangalabi  
**Lusoga:** Nsiwa **Runyoro:** Mujwa, mujwe.

**Ecology:** A tree of swampy high forest in West Africa. Widespread in the Central Region of Uganda, abundant in Budongo and Bugoma forests, and also found in the wooded grasslands of Iganga District.

**Uses:** Firewood, timber, utensils, carving, medicine (bark), shade (for coffee, tea and banana).

**Description:** A deciduous forest tree to 65 m high, **bole deeply fluted at the base** like folds of a curtain, but straight above 10 m. **The branches are quite characteristic in young trees, radiating from the trunk at the same level in whorls.** BARK: thick, light-brown-green, then darker and rough, dotted with lenticels (breathing pores). When cut produces copious chalk-white latex and **the scar is yellow dotted orange-pink.** LEAVES: **simple and whorled 6-8 together at the ends of branchlets**, each one long and oval to 20 cm x 5 cm, the upper half widest, **lateral veins numerous and parallel**, dark above and paler below, tip blunt. FLOWERS: Seen on the bare tree **white-cream, in rounded heads** at the end of branches, each flower about 1 cm **tubular**, the **5 petals overlapping clockwise.** FRUIT: **pairs of slender follicles 20-40 cm hang down, bright green then pale yellow** when ripe. They split lengthwise to set free numerous seeds with **tufts of brown hairs** each end.

**Propagation:** Seed, wildings and seedlings.

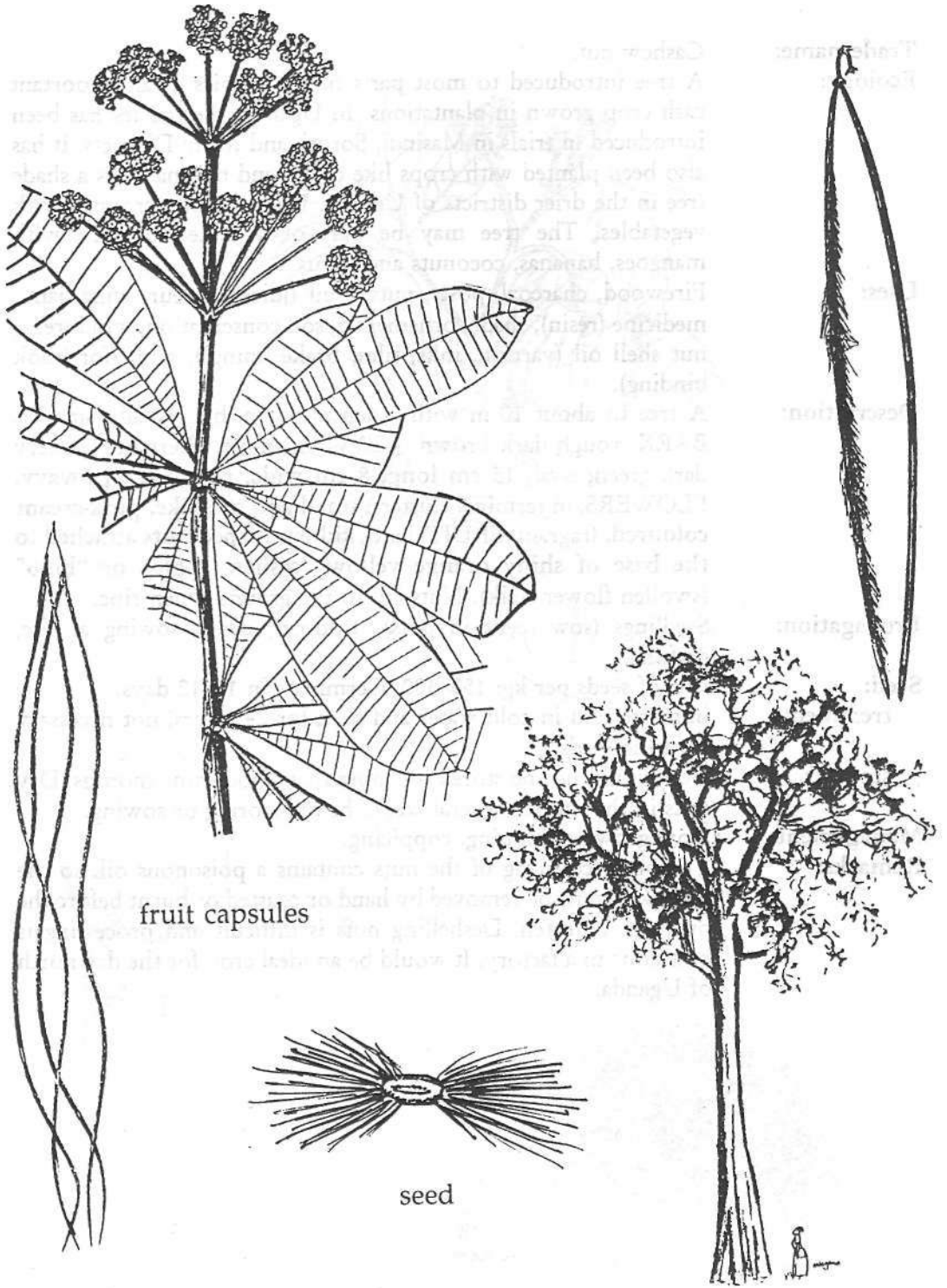
**Seed:** The seeds have hairs at both ends which help dispersal by wind. Collect pods before they split open,

**treatment:** no treatment.

**storage:** store in envelopes in a cool and dry place.

**Management:** Fast growing. Grows in a succession of crowns and should not be pruned but left to develop secondary crowns which will later kill off the lower ones.

**Remarks:** The tree snaps easily in a strong wind and should not be planted near buildings. A good shade tree for coffee, tea, and banana plantations. The wood is soft and light and easy to carve. A decoction of the bark is said to be a cure for venereal disease. The long green fruit on the bare trees are conspicuous in Budongo around December.



fruit capsules

seed