

Indigenous

Common names: **Lugishu:** Mwiruni **Rukonjo:** Sosi **Sebei:** Lulyo.

Ecology: In Uganda, in lower montane forests, e.g. in Kibale, Kalinzu and Kasyoha-Kitomi Forests, 1,200-2,100 m.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber (general purpose, joinery, flooring, panelling, plywood, veneer), food (nut, oil), shade.

Description: **A very tall tree, to 50 m, with a clear straight bole to about 16 m, topped by a rather small dense crown, mature trees buttressed at the base.** BARK: Pale, grey-brown, smooth to lightly fissured, much **white latex** if cut and an **unpleasant smell**. Flower and leaf stalks, buds and shoots covered with **golden-brown hairs**. LEAVES: Stiff and large to 22 x 8 cm, usually smaller, dark shiny green above, **hairy pale orange below, 10-20 pairs prominent veins**, the tip pointed, on a twisted stalk to 2 cm. FLOWERS: Cream-green, very small, in clusters beside leaves, sepals and flower stalks brown, hairy, soon falling to the ground. FRUIT: Hard, green, **narrow to 4 cm with a beak**, the soft hairy skin milky but inside is **one shiny brown seed** to 3 cm long with a large white scar (hilum).

Propagation: Seedlings (sow seeds in pots), wildings.

Seed: Fruit mature in April.

treatment: not required, but seed should be sown fresh.

storage: seed has a very short viability period.

Management: Slow growing; coppicing, pollarding.

Remarks: This valuable timber tree has been planted in plantations. The wood is medium heavy and hard to saw but polishes well. It has also been planted in degraded montane forests in Uganda. The seed contains edible oil.

