

Indigenous

- Trade name:** Osan.
- Common names:** **Rutoro:** Mutoke.
- Ecology:** Widely distributed throughout East Africa and in Uganda it is common in all lowland forests.
- Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, timber (furniture, veneer), flooring/ panelling, shade, ornamental (avenues).
- Description:** **A tall tree to 45 m**, the trunk straight to 30 m, diameter of 1-2 m at breast height, slightly buttressed at base. **BARK:** smooth grey; when cut white latex drips slowly from the fibrous red-brown inner bark. **LEAVES:** large and long, oval, to 13 x 7 cm, **tip usually blunt and rounded**, stalk 1 cm, young leaves hairy brown but mature leaves hairless (only a few on the midrib), veins yellow and clear below, raised on the upper surface; clear dots visible when the leaf is viewed against strong light with a hand lens. **FLOWERS:** very small on stalks in fragrant cream-yellow clusters besides the leaves, buds hairy. **FRUIT:** oval to **rounded, red to 2 cm across**. Inside, the shiny brown seed is up to **1.5 cm long** marked with a long pale scar.
- Propagation:** Seedlings (sow seeds in pots), wildings.
- Seed:** No. of seeds per kg: 1,000.
- treatment:** not necessary.
- storage:** seeds lose viability very quickly; need to sow it fresh.
- Management:** Coppicing, pollarding.
- Remarks:** The pale pink heartwood is easy to saw and plane and takes a good polish. It is, however, not durable if used for outdoor construction. Can be intercropped with coffee, banana and cocoa for shade.

