

Annona senegalensis (A. chrysophylla)

Annonaceae

Indigenous

Common names **Ateso:** Ebolo **English:** Wild custard apple, wild soursop **Lugbara:** Elipo, lamodi **Lugwe:** Silonga-longa **Lugwere:** Kinaboru **Luo A:** Obwolo, ovolo **Luo J:** Obalo **Lusoga:** Kitamatama **Runyoro:** Mubengeya.

Ecology: A wild fruit tree found all over Africa in semi-arid to sub-humid regions. In Uganda it occurs in dryish wooded grasslands and woodlands, often associated with *Combretum* spp. and *Albizia* spp.

Uses: Food (fruit), medicine (bark, root, gum, fruit), fodder (leaves), dye (bark).

Description: A shrubby deciduous tree, usually 2-6 m. **BARK:** grey and smooth, thick and folded when old, young stems hairy and orange. **LEAVES:** oval and rounded, blue-green to 18 cm long, hairy below, a peculiar smell when crushed. **FLOWERS:** 1-3 small flowers hang down below twigs, yellow-green petals and sepals in threes. **FRUIT:** rounded 2-7 cm smooth with divisions. Green when unripe, turning orange-yellow when ripe and smelling like pineapple. The sweet pulp surrounding many seeds is edible.

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

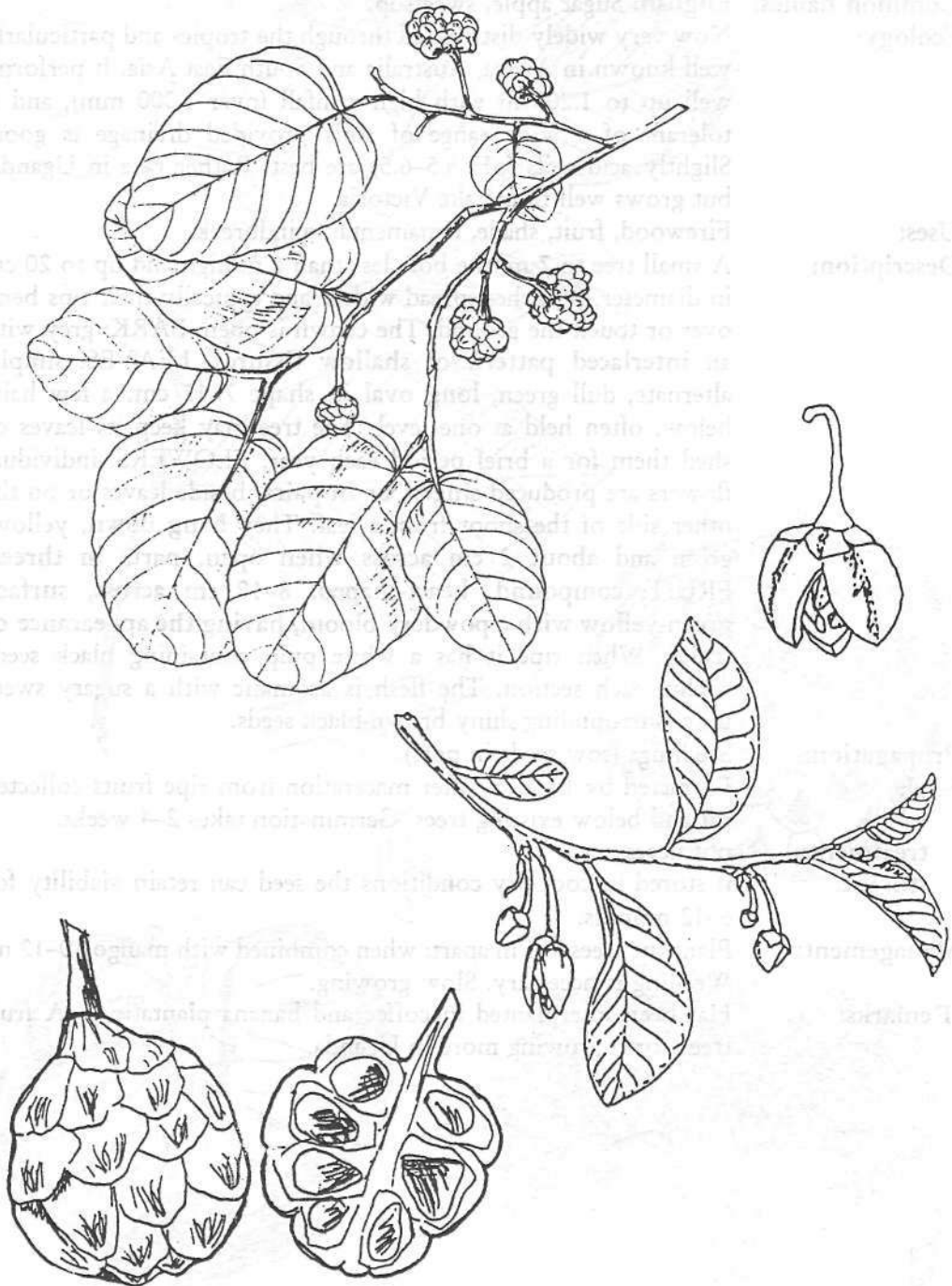
Seed: No. of seeds per kg: 2,500-3,000. Germination is good but sporadic.

treatment: no treatment required.

storage: seeds susceptible to insect damage and lose viability within 6 months. Add ash to reduce insect damage.

Management: Very susceptible to fire and weeds. Needs shade from other trees, but cannot live under tropical forest conditions. It is thus better to plant it under light shade of other useful trees. Slow growing.

Remarks: *Annona senegalensis* is very similar to the exotic *Annona squamosa*. *Annona* species are suitable for introduction into farmlands. Bark and roots can be used as a treatment for snake bite.



Actual size of fruit