

Indigenous

- Common names:** **Luganda:** Katazamiti **Lugishu:** Kumuholong, shigakara **Lugwe:** Lulondamombe **Lunyuli:** Muhangwe **Luo L:** Odugu-kulo **Lusoga:** Itasabwa, mwesende **Rukiga:** Muyimbo, mubambantomi **Runyankore:** Kataza, mujiji **Rutoro:** Mubalagaza **Sebei:** Margalgalyet.
- Ecology:** A tree of the high-potential areas in East and Southern Africa. In Uganda occurs in riverine forests, forest edges or in wet places in thickets in Eastern, Central, North Western and parts of Northern Regions, 600-2,200 m. It does well in a wide variety of climates.
- Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, timber, poles (granaries), tool handles, fruit, medicine (bark and roots), fodder (leaves), mulch, shade.
- Description:** A medium-sized leafy evergreen tree with **dense spreading crown**, to 13 m. **BARK:** grey-brown flaking with age, young stems zigzag, dotted with paler breathing pores. **LEAVES:** appear compound but actually simple alternate along branches, **dark shiny green above**, to 12 cm long, **veins parallel extending along margin**, leaf stalks slightly hairy. **FLOWERS:** small and yellowish, **bunched in leaf axils**, male and female flowers on different trees. **FRUIT:** **soft purple-black, oval up to 8 mm**, sweet and edible when ripe in times of emergency.
- Propagation:** Seedlings (sow seed in pots), wildings, direct sowing on site.
- Seed:** Prolific seeder. No. of seeds per kg: 19,000-19,500. Germination is very good and uniform, up to 90-100 % after 20-25 days,
- treatment:** not necessary,
- storage:** short viability (oil seed).
- Management:** Fast growing in good sites, pollarding, coppicing.
- Remarks:** The species is becoming scarce due to over-exploitation. It is not planted near homesteads as it attracts caterpillars and birds. The wood is resistant to termites. The species is kept in banana and coffee plantations where it is a useful shade tree.

