

Tropical Asia

**Common names:** **English:** Mauritius thorn, Mysore thorn.

**Ecology:** A thorny shrub widely naturalized in Africa in medium- and high-rainfall areas, 900-2,100 m. In Uganda commonly cultivated as a live fence or growing wild in most areas except North Eastern Region.

**Uses:** Medicine, bee forage, mulch, ornamental, live fence, gum (in fruit).

**Description:** A shrub or climber, occasionally reaching 10 m. **BARK:** grey and smooth with prickles. **LEAVES:** feathery, compound to 50 cm long with **hooked prickles** along the leaf stalk. **FLOWERS:** showy **pale yellow in spikes to 30 cm**, 2 cm across with orange stamens hanging down. **FRUIT:** clusters of **brown pointed pods**, held **erect on woody stalks** scattering seeds as they open.

**Propagation:** Direct sowing on site.

**Seed:** Germination rate is above 60%.

**treatment:** soak in cold water for two days.

**storage:** seed can be stored for long periods if kept dry and free of insects. Add ash to reduce insect damage.

**Management:** Fairly fast growing; trim as a live fence.

**Remarks:** It may develop into a serious weed if not checked, especially in pasture land. Burning in the dry season is a control measure.

