

Indigenous

Common names: **Ateso:** Emuriai **Kwamba:** Muwogi, mwogi **Luganda:** Muyonza, nyonza **Luo A:** Achuga **Luo L:** Achuga **Lusoga:** Mutulituli **Rukiga:** Muyonza **Rukonjo:** Munombi **Runyankore:** Muyonza.

Ecology: An evergreen shrub common in much of Africa. In Uganda commonly found on termite mounds in wooded grassland, especially in low-lying areas associated with *Grewia similis* and also in thickets in woodlands, forest edges and secondary scrub. It prefers dryish conditions as in the southern part of Northern Region and the northern part of Central Region, 1,000-2,000 m. Tolerates most soils, including black cotton.

Uses: Firewood, food (fruit), seasoning (soup), medicine (roots), ornamental, live fence.

Description: A spiny shrub or small tree to 5 m, sometimes a climber. **BARK:** grey, smooth **with straight woody spines to 5 cm**, often in pairs, rarely branching. Milky latex as in all the family. **LEAVES:** **opposite**, leathery, **dark green shiny to 5 cm**, **tip pointed**, **base rounded**, stalk very short. **FLOWERS:** fragrant, in **pink-white terminal clusters**, each flower **to 2 cm**, lobes overlap to the right. **FRUIT:** rounded **berries about 1 cm purple-black when ripe**, sweet and edible, 2-4 seeds.

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

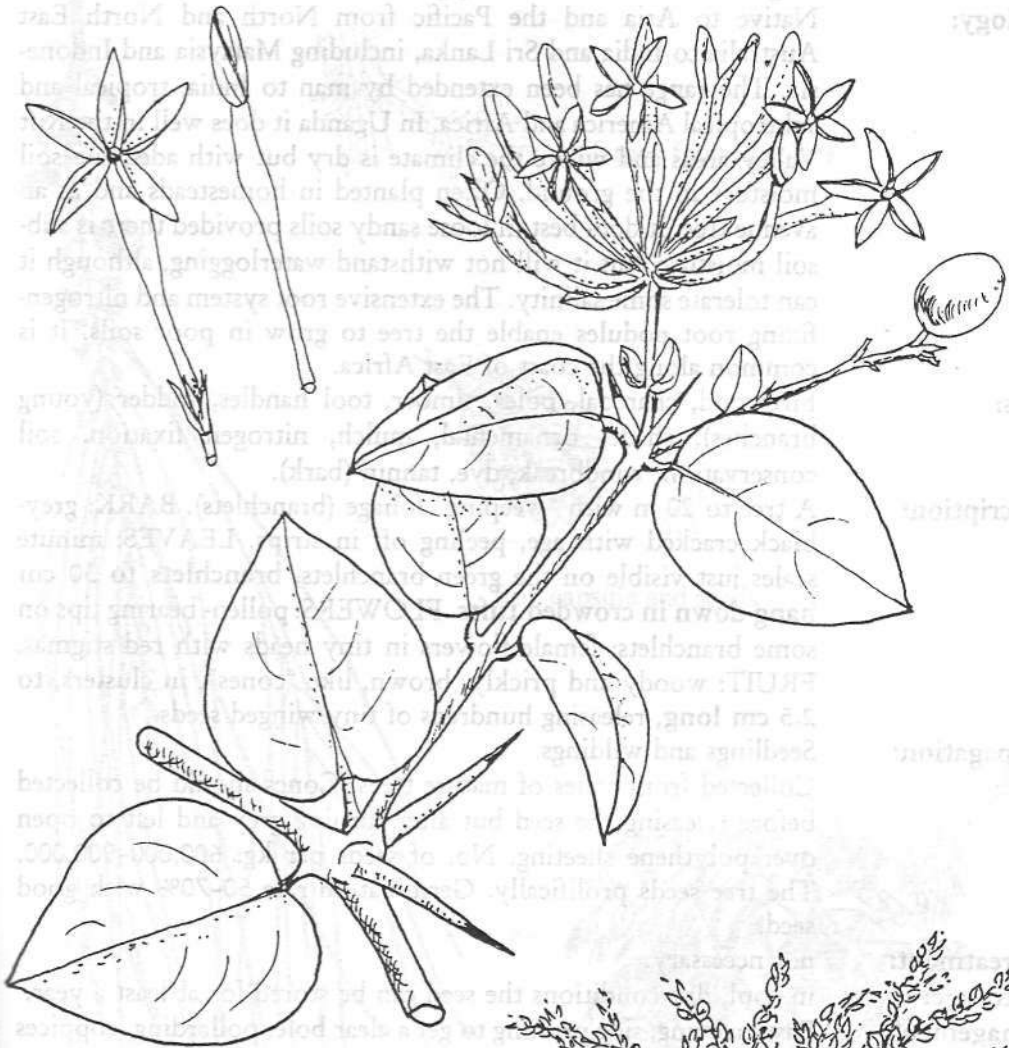
Seed: No. of seeds per kg: 28,000-30,000. Germination of fresh seed is good.

treatment: not necessary.

storage: can retain viability for up to three months only.

Management: Pruning. Slow growing.

Remarks: An important medicine in Tanzania and Uganda. Although difficult to establish, it can be grown from seed into an attractive impenetrable hedge. Excellent firewood. Plant as a bush for fruit or hedge.



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