

Indigenous

**Trade name:** White star apple.

**Common names:** **English:** White star apple **Kwamba:** Bondongulo **Luganda:** Mululu, nkalate **Luganda, dialect Buddu:** Nkalate **Lugwe:** Muhuhubu **Lusoga:** Mululu **Runyoro:** Mululu **Rutoro:** Muhambulya.

**Ecology:** A dominant canopy tree of lowland mixed rain forest, sometimes riverine. It is widely distributed from West Africa to the Sudan with an eastern limit in Kakamega Forest, Kenya. It is widely distributed in Uganda, e.g. in Budongo, Mabira and other forests.

**Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, timber (furniture), tool handles, food (fruit).

**Description:** A **tall straight tree from 30 m**, to 60 m with a fluted trunk and small buttresses to a dense crown, **white latex in all parts**. **BARK: thin, pale grey-brown**, with a network of zigzag fissures; twigs grooved; white gummy latex when cut. **LEAVES:** the name *albidum* (white) refers to the **white or silvery-grey undersurface of mature leaves**, easily seen when looking up into the tree's canopy. The lower surface of young leaves has soft golden-brown hairs. Leaves oval-oblong, 12-25 cm, tip usually pointed, **midrib sunken above**, prominent below with clear side veins, leaf stalk to 3 cm. **FLOWERS:** cream-yellow, very small in dense stalked clusters, usually in leaf axils. **FRUIT: yellow-orange-brown when ripe, rounded, 3-7 cm** across with a sharp tip, depressed the other end to a short stalk. Inside shiny brown seeds to 2.5 cm long lie in sweet-acid edible pulp **each bean-like with one sharp edge. In cross-section seeds arranged like a star** (as in an apple). Five-ribbed when dry.

**Propagation:** Seedlings (sow seed in pots), wildings and direct sowing on site.

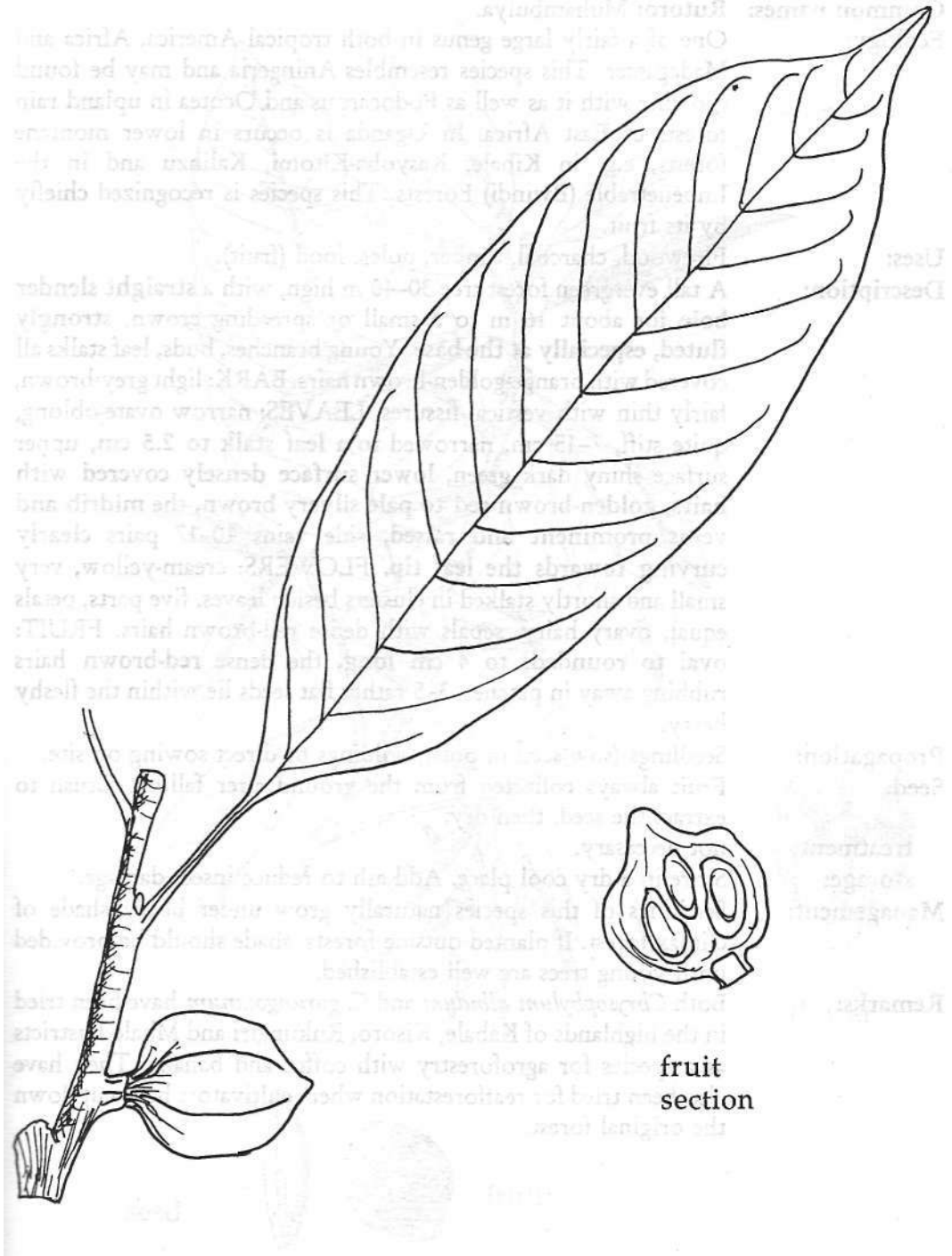
**Seed:** Contained in a pulp which must be crushed before extraction of seed. Fruit always collected from the ground after falling.

**treatment:** not necessary but a light cracking of the seed might improve germination.

**storage:** Store in a cool dry place. Add ash to reduce insect damage.

**Management:** Requires good tending and shade until well established.

**Remarks:** The tree has been planted by farmers in Mbale, Kapchorwa and Kabale Districts. In West Africa it is widely planted for its fruit.



fruit section