

- Common names:** **Ateso:** Ekuloin **Luganda:** Mukoola **Lugwere:** Mukora **Luo:** Okechu, odugu **Luo J:** Dukino **Lusoga:** Nkotcha, musabagwa, mukoola **Madi:** Otubi **Runyoro:** Mukora, tubi **Sebei:** Uskinwo.
- Ecology:** A tree widespread in tropical and subtropical Africa from west to south, into the Sudan and Ethiopia and found throughout East Africa. In Uganda it is very common in savannah woodland, wooded grasslands and scattered in open grasslands. It is a most variable tree and many subspecies have been separated on details of leaf arrangement, fruit size, hairiness and scales.
- Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, medicine (leaves, roots), bee forage, fencing (cut branches), firebreaks.
- Description:** A shrub or small- to medium-sized tree 2.5-10.0 m, the crown flat or rounded, often dominant in an area. **BARK:** smooth and grey when young, later grey-brown, rough, scaly or fissured. **LEAVES:** vary greatly, often in whorls of 3-4, usually **tough** not thin, **darker and shiny above**, oval or long oval, about 9 cm but up to 22 cm long, the tip blunter pointed, the base rounded or narrowed to a leaf stalk 1-4 cm. The underside may be hairy or not but with **few or many silvery scales**, between clearly paired veins (6-20 pairs). **FLOWERS:** **cream-white-yellow, sweet-scented and very small, in spikes 6-10 cm long**, usually shorter than leaves, the tree conspicuous in flower. **FRUIT:** **4-winged, generally oval**, 2.5-5.0 cm long x 2-4 cm wide, rust red when young, turning golden-brown-grey-purple. The many scales, often red, catch the light so the **surface shines** like metal.
- Propagation:** Wildings and seedlings (sow seed in pots).
- Seed:** Collect winged fruit.
- treatment:** open fruit to get seed; if difficult, soak in cold water and then open.
- storage:** fruits store only for a short period; after extraction seeds will not store. Sow fresh seeds.
- Management:** Slow growing; coppicing, lopping, pollarding.
- Remarks:** Roots are used to treat diarrhoea and vomiting. Makes very good charcoal. Flowers produce good nectar for honey. Suitable for savannah firebreaks. The hard, durable wood burns well but the living tree is tolerant of grass fires. Three subspecies are recognized in Uganda: *hypopilinum* in North Western Region; *elgonense* in Soroti, Mbale, Tororo and Pallisa Districts; and *binderanum* in Hoima, Masindi, Apac and Lira Districts.

