

Indigenous

Common names: **Ateso:** Ekworo, eworo **English:** Velvet-leaved combretum **Luganda:** Ndagi **Lugbara:** Geleo **Lugishu:** Shikimira **Lugwe:** Muchuta **Lugwere:** Kinakworo **Luo A:** Okechu, oduk **Luo J:** Deda **Luo L:** Iworo, iyoro **Lusoga:** Ndawa, daha, nfodwa **Madi:** Otubi, lebilebi **Runyoro:** Murama **Sebei:** Kembei.

Ecology: A tree widespread in wooded grassland and bushland all over Africa. Often grows on stony hills, from the coast to 2,300 m altitude. Common throughout Uganda.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, poles, posts, timber (construction), tool handles, medicine (roots, leaves, bark), bee forage, mulch.

Description: A small deciduous tree, usually 5-7 m, the trunk often crooked and branching near the base, with distinctive bark. **BARK: older trunks dark brown-black, deeply grooved in squares like crocodile skin.** Branchlets peeling in fibrous strips. **LEAVES:** large, **soft and hairy** both sides, about 17 cm long, **rounded at the base**, tip pointed. **FLOWERS:** greenish **yellow spikes to 9 cm**, sweet scented, attracting insects, produced before or with new leaves. **FRUIT:** dry **4-winged**, yellow-green at first, drying bright golden brown, looking like flowers, to 2 cm, seed within centre and wings wider than the seed.

Propagation: Seedlings (sow seed in pots), root suckers.

Seed: No. of seeds per kg: 10,000-15,000. Germinates easily if fresh.

treatment: open fruit to get seed.

storage: fruits store only for a short period; after extraction seeds will not store. Sow fresh seeds.

Management: Slow growing; lopping, coppicing.

Remarks: There are three East African varieties. The hard yellow wood is useful for tools and burns well giving intense heat. The wood is moderately termite resistant. Medicine from the roots has been used for treating hookworm, snake bite, stomach pains, fever, dysentery and leprosy. The charcoal from this species is highly appreciated in Uganda and its planting should be encouraged.

