

Indigenous

**Common names:** **English:** Broad-leaved croton **Kwamba:** Muhuta, moti **Luganda:** Musogasoga **Lugbara:** Ofunze **Lugishu:** Guyi, gwihhi, lwihhi **Lugwe:** Muchwichwi **Lugwere:** Mwiyo **Lunyuli:** Nahingunya **Luo A:** Ekwanga, ekwango **Luo J:** Epoli **Luo L:** Ekwango **Lusoga:** Muyemba, muyemberera **Rukiga:** Murangari **Runyan-kore:** Mulangara **Rutoro:** Muhoti **Sebei:** Toboswa.

**Ecology:** A medium-sized tree of eastern Africa, widespread in areas with high rainfall in forest margins, along roadsides and in Juniperus-Podocarpus habitats. Widely distributed in Uganda and common in the Impenetrable (Bwindi) Forest and in Kibale Forest. Commonly planted for shade and as an ornamental, 1,100-2,500 m.

**Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, timber, poles, tool handles, medicine (sap, leaves, roots, bark), fodder, bee forage, shade, ornamental, mulch, soil conservation.

**Description:** A deciduous tree, the crown rounded and open with large spreading branches, reaching 2-5 m. **BARK:** pale grey, fairly smooth. **LEAVES:** large, **soft and heart-shaped, to 15 cm long, on long stems** crowded at the end of branchlets, veins prominent **with 2 stalked glands** just visible at the leaf base, paler below due to soft hairs. **FLOWERS:** creamy yellow, **sweetly scented in erect spikes to 25 cm**, all over the tree. Flowers appear only briefly, the flower spike turning down as fruits mature. **FRUIT:** **pea-sized capsules on drooping spikes, to 30 cm**, mature capsules split open with a sharp noise to release shiny grey seeds with a rather soft, cream aril.

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

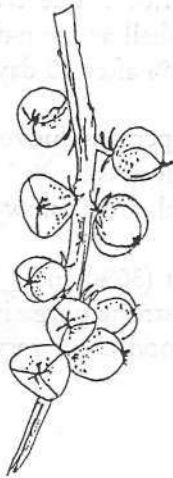
**Seed:** No. of seeds per kg: 16,000-27,000. Seed usually damaged by insects while on the tree. Germination is good: 40-70% in 30-60 days.

**treatment:** not necessary; inside of viable seeds must be white-cream coloured. Collect seed from mature grey fruit. Sun dry fruits to release seed,

**storage:** seed can be stored for some months if kept cool, dry and free from insects.

**Management:** Fairly fast growing on good sites; lopping, pollarding and coppicing.

**Remarks:** Seed and sap are poisonous. When cut for firewood, this sap gives it a rather unpleasant spicy odour. It is a good tree for intercropping. The timber is good for heavy-duty flooring. Can be grown in plantations, intercropped or as an ornamental.



fruit capsules

