

Cyphomandra betacea

Solanaceae

Peru, South America

Trade name: Tree tomato.

Common names: **English:** Tree tomato **Luganda:** Munyanya **Rukiga:** Ekitunda **Rutoro:** Nyanya-ezomuti.

Ecology: A woody shrub or small tree long ago introduced to many tropical countries where it is sometimes naturalized. In Uganda, it grows between 1,000 and 2,000 m. It does best on deep soils, bearing fruit in about two years and remaining productive for several years.

Uses: Food (jam, fruit, vegetable).

Description: A large evergreen shrub or tree to 3 m with **characteristic umbrella-like branching**. **BARK:** young stems are shiny, old stems with rounded leaf scars. **LEAVES:** alternate, large, rather **heart-shaped, 40 x 30 cm, softly hairy**, drooping in heat, on a long stalk. **FLOWERS:** in fragrant hanging groups from older stems. **Each flower 5-lobed, white-pink** with a darker stripe. **FRUIT:** in clusters, **egg-shaped to 7 cm long**, abundant, on long stems, **shiny orange-red to purple**.

Propagation: Seedlings, cuttings, wildings.

Seed: No. of seeds per kg: about 100,000.

treatment: not necessary.

storage: seed can be stored.

Management: Fast growing in good sites; coppicing.

Remarks: The fruit is slower to ripen at higher altitudes. The acid fruit can be eaten raw or cooked, and quality depends on the variety grown. It can be grown with crops, e.g. coffee.

