

Indigenous

Common names: **Luganda:** Nkokwa **Runyankore:** Mukarabo.

Ecology: A shrub or small tree found in Uganda but not in Kenya or Tanzania. It grows in the wooded savannah grassland or shady woodlands of the Central, Western and North Western Regions of Uganda.

Uses: Fibre (bark), bee hives (coppice shoots).

Description: A decorative shrub or small tree about 2 m high, rarely up to 6 m. **BARK:** brown and fibrous, young shoots hairy. They are flexible and used to make bee hives. **LEAVES: oval to rounded with 3-5 lobes, the edge irregularly toothed,** the main lateral veins reaching over half way up the leaf blade, upper surface hairy, **tip rounded or notched, the midrib tip projecting,** leaf base heart-shaped to a hairy stalk 3-7 cm long. **FLOWERS: heads of white flowers** on a stalk to 15 cm grow beside leaves, each flower with 5 petals up to 17 mm and **5 styles.** **FRUIT: a capsule about 1 cm long with 5 sections** which split to release tiny hairy seeds.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings.

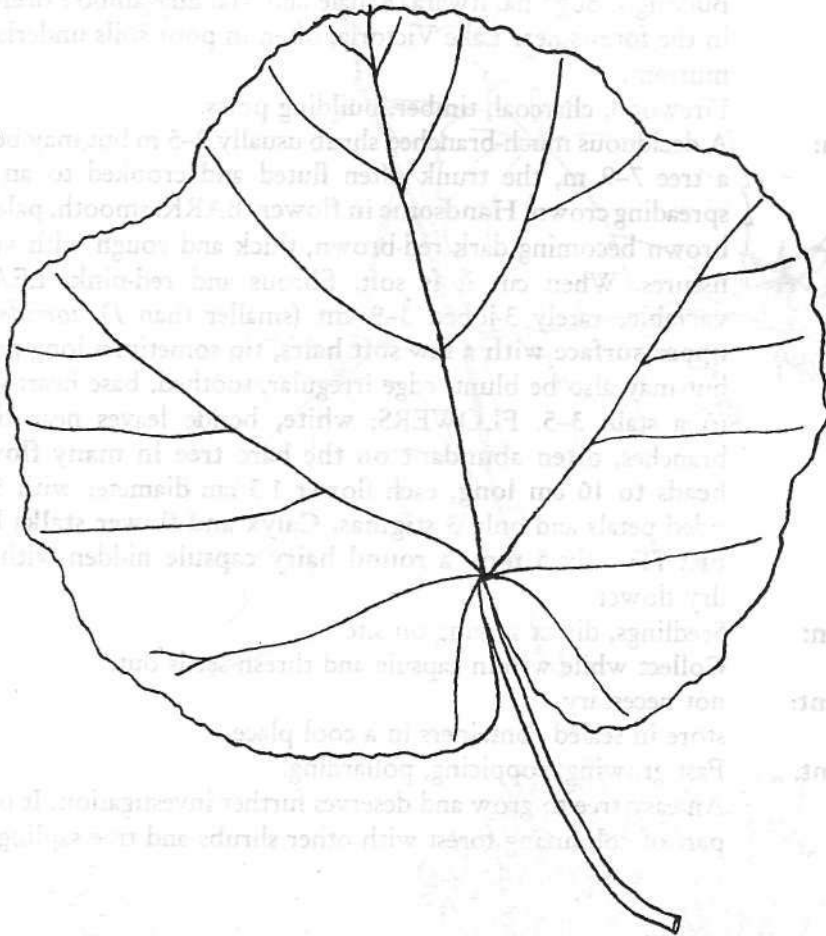
Seed: Seeds should be collected before the capsules split open, and removed either by shaking the split capsules or by beating them with a stick,

treatment: not necessary.

storage: store in sealed envelopes in a dry cool place.

Management: Fast growing; coppicing. Many coppice shoots are produced after cutting or burning in bush fires. Such stems need to be thinned and pruned.

Remarks: Once the bark is removed, the stem dies. The bark is used to make baskets.



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