

Indigenous

- Ecology:** One of 6 East African Dovyalis, this shrubby tree is found from Ethiopia to Malawi in upland rain forest, dry evergreen forest, on river banks and sometimes in more open woodland. In Uganda it is abundant in Kibale Forest and Kasyoha-Kitomi Forests, at forest edges and in nearby thicket and scrub land.
- Uses:** Medicine (roots), food (fruit), bee forage, live fence.
- Description:** An evergreen spiny shrub or tree to 8 m, crown rounded. BARK: grey, spines to 1.5 cm long. Branchlets with **very clear dotted breathing pores** (lenticels). LEAVES: shiny, dark green, **oval, to 5 cm, tip blunt, edge unevenly rounded**, stalks and veins reddish. FLOWERS: no petals but 5 yellow-green-white sepals, female flowers single but male in clusters with 40-60 stamens. FRUIT: a **round berry about 2 cm across**, surrounded by the calyx, green and hairy at first then smooth **orange-yellow**, with **edible sweet-sour flesh** around the few hairy seeds.
- Propagation:** Seedlings (sow seed in pots).
- Seed:**
- treatment:** after soaking the fruit in cold water for 24 hours break up the flesh to release the seeds.
- storage:** use fresh seeds for best germination.
- Management:** Lopping, coppicing.
- Remarks:** The fruit is edible but very acid; excellent for jelly. The fruit is about the same size as that of *D. caffra*. Grow as a fruit bush.

enlarged
male flower

