

Indigenous

Common names: **Luganda:** Musuga **Lugishu:** Chibondwe **Lusoga:** Ikobokobo **Rukiga:** Mukobakoba, tukumbu **Runyankore:** mukobokobo **Rutoro:** Nkabwa **Sebei:** Mundarariet.

Ecology: An African tree with 5 varieties from East to Southern Africa, some in bushland, others in riverine rain forest. In Uganda the tree commonly occurs in evergreen forest and at forest edges, 1,100-2,000 m. Abundant in Kibale Forest.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, ornamental.

Description: A deciduous shrub or tree usually 2-9 m (to 20 m), often branching from the base, the trunk crooked with weak drooping branches. **LEAVES:** oval but wide or narrow to 20 cm x 12 cm, the **tip pointed, base rounded**, on a stalk 1-3 cm. The leaf is rarely flat and bubbles up between the veins. **Veins are raised below and have hairs.** Leaves are often attacked by insects. **FLOWERS:** in **loose large heads** to 15 cm across (only), on **hairy stalks**, often covering the tree. The small flowers are **white-yellow-pink**, quite fragrant. The **divided style and brown-black anthers hang out** of the bell-like flowers. **FRUIT:** in large heads. Round orange-red and berry like, the fruit turn black. Each is **pointed** and breaks into **4 parts**, each containing a hard, comma-shaped seed.

Propagation: Seedlings, direct sowing at site.

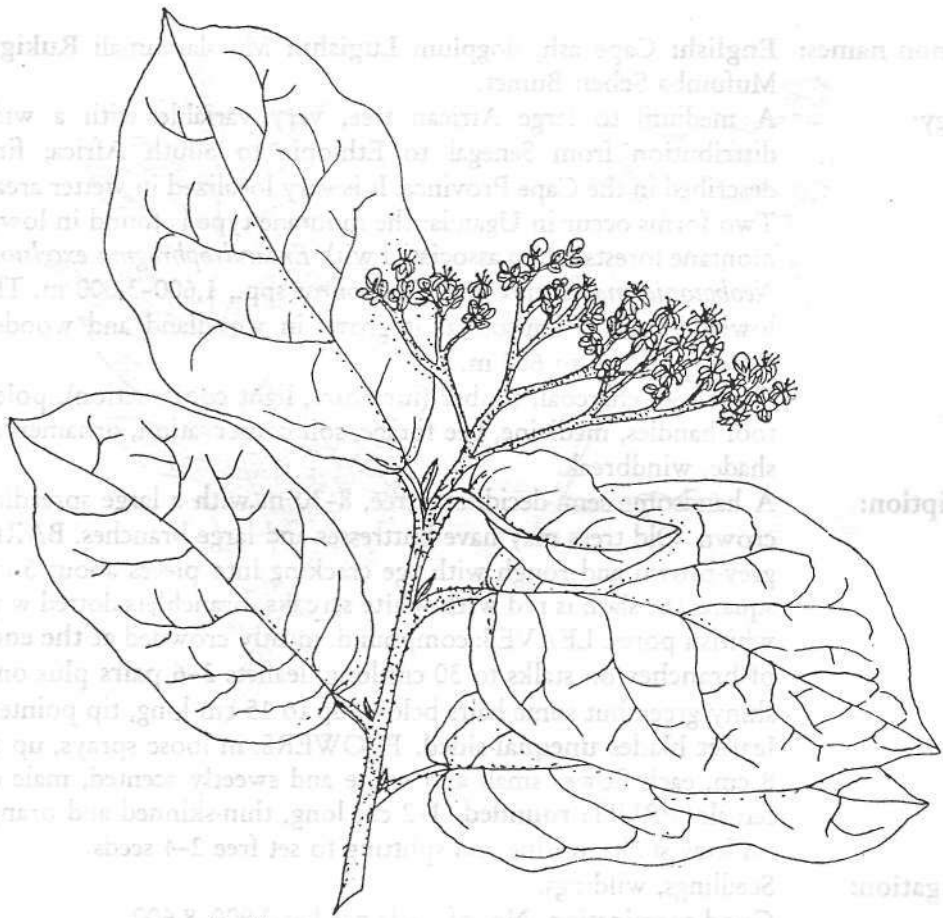
Seed: No. of seeds per kg: 20,000-30,000. Cut the fruiting head when 80% of the fruit are mature to extract the seed,

treatment: not necessary,

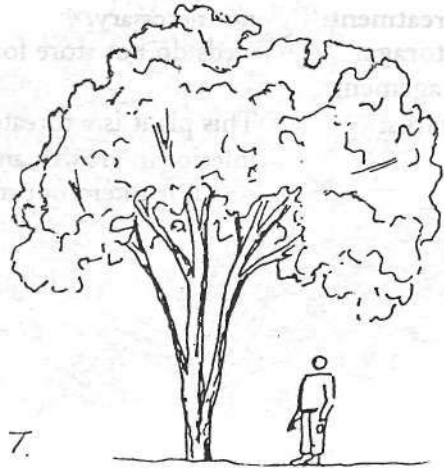
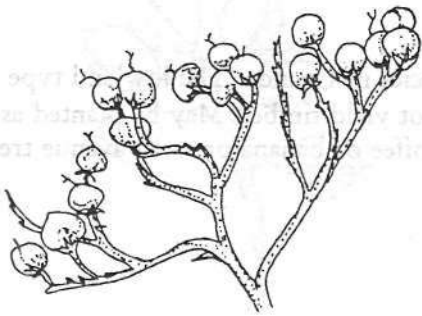
storage: seeds can be stored.

Management: Fast growing; pruning, pollarding, lopping and coppicing.

Remarks: Planted mainly as an ornamental in villages in Uganda but could also be used as a source of firewood. In South Africa has been used to make good furniture.



A.B.



DAMTEW T.