

Indigenous

Common names: **English:** Cape ash, dogplum **Lugishu:** Musalamumali **Rukiga:** Mufumba **Sebei:** Bumet.

Ecology: A medium to large African tree, very variable with a wide distribution from Senegal to Ethiopia to South Africa; first described in the Cape Province. It is very localized in wetter areas. Two forms occur in Uganda: the montane type is found in lower montane forests, often associated with *Entandrophragma excelsum*, *Neobotonia macrocalyx* and *Cassipourea* spp., 1,600-3,000 m. The lowland type is unusual as it grows in woodland and wooded grassland down to 600 m.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber (furniture, light construction), poles, tool handles, medicine, bee forage, soil conservation, ornamental, shade, windbreak.

Description: A handsome semi-deciduous tree, 8-30 m with a large spreading crown. Old trees may have buttresses and large branches. **BARK:** grey-brown and rough with age cracking into pieces about 5 cm square; the slash is **red with white streaks**, branchlets dotted with whitish pores. **LEAVES:** compound, mostly crowded **at the ends of branches** on stalks to 30 cm long, leaflets **3-6 pairs** plus one, shiny green but some hairs below, up to 15 cm long, tip pointed, **leaflet blades unequal-sided**. **FLOWERS:** in loose sprays, up to 8 cm, each flower small and white and sweetly scented, male or female. **FRUIT: rounded**, 1-2 cm long, thin-skinned and orange on long stalks, drying and splitting to set free 2-4 seeds.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings.

Seed: Good germination. No. of seeds per kg: 2,900-8,600.

treatment: not necessary.

storage: seeds do not store for long.

Management:

Remarks: This plant is a threatened species in Uganda. The lowland type is inferior in growth and will not yield timber. May be planted as a stand or intercropped with coffee or banana or as an avenue tree.

