

Indigenous

**Common names:** **Luganda:** Mubajangabo **Rukonjo:** Mulungula, mulungulu.

**Ecology:** A tree of swamp and riverine forest and lake shore forest in West and Central Africa. In Uganda is grows in Central, Western and North Western Regions and is common in the Lake Victoria belt forest.

**Uses:** Timber (light), carving, shade (coffee, tea), ornamental.

**Description:** A deciduous **tree which can reach 30 m** with a bole to 20 m which bears strong **woody conical spines**. **BARK: smooth and pale, yellow when cut.** Main stems often have tiny sharp thorns and branchlets and leaf stalks may or may not have prickles. **LEAVES: 3 leaflets**, variable in size, usually 12 cm long and 7 cm across (larger in young trees), the middle leaflet widest, lateral leaflets one-sided oval, all with yellow-brown hairs when young. Prominent glands on stalk below central leaflet and below laterals. Main stalk 4-21 cm. **FLOWERS: appearing on the bare tree in stiff one-sided heads 7-28 cm, the large standard petal dull orange to red, the calyx orange also and split to form a spathe which has two acute teeth at the tip; stamen tube also red.** **FRUIT: stalked pods, woody and twisted, very markedly constricted between some seeds, olive-brown, smooth and hairy to 20 cm long breaking open completely, twisting as it opens, to set free 1-10 seeds each orange-red, somewhat angled, about 1.5 cm with a white hilum.**

**Propagation:** Seedlings (sow seed in pots), cuttings, wildings.

**Seed:** Prone to insect attack while still on the tree.

**treatment:**

**storage:**

seed is quickly attacked by insects and should not be stored. Sow as soon as collected.

**Management:** Very fast growing; pollarding.

**Remarks:** Farmers should be encouraged to plant this useful tree for timber, shade and as an ornamental. It decorates the streets in Kampala city. The timber is light and easy to work. Good for making drums. The flowers have much nectar attracting bees and birds.

