

Euphorbia candelabrum

Euphorbiaceae

Indigenous

Common names: **Ateso:** Epopong **English:** Candelabra euphorbia **Lugbara:** Weri **Lugishu:** Lidwa **Lunyuli:** Kidunga **Luo J:** Bondo **Luo L:** Epopong **Lusoga:** Kikukulu, mukukulu **Madi:** Kiliozoki **Rukonjo:** Kikukulu **Runyankore:** Enkukuru.

Ecology: A characteristic tree in much of dryland Africa. In Uganda it grows in both dry deciduous and evergreen woodlands, often on termite mounds and in thickets of *Capparis* spp., *Acacia gerrardii*, *Acacia sieberiana* and *Acacia polyacantha*, 1,100-2,200 m. Abundant in Queen Elizabeth National Park.

Uses: Firewood, timber (roofing, tables, matches, boxes, carving, musical instruments), live fence.

Description: A tree up to 15 m, the trunk thick, to 3 m, where the lower branches have fallen away. Erect branches have **3-5 spiny ribs** or wings and branches go on dividing to make a large round crown. The green-grey stems have many **narrow "waists"** and have taken over the leaf function to make food. **LEAVES:** mature plants have no true leaves, just scales. Seedlings have leaves. **FLOWERS:** small, **green-yellow and fleshy in groups** of 4-6 next to the paired spines. **FRUIT:** green-red pea-size capsules, seeds spotted with dirty white.

Propagation: Cuttings and wildings.

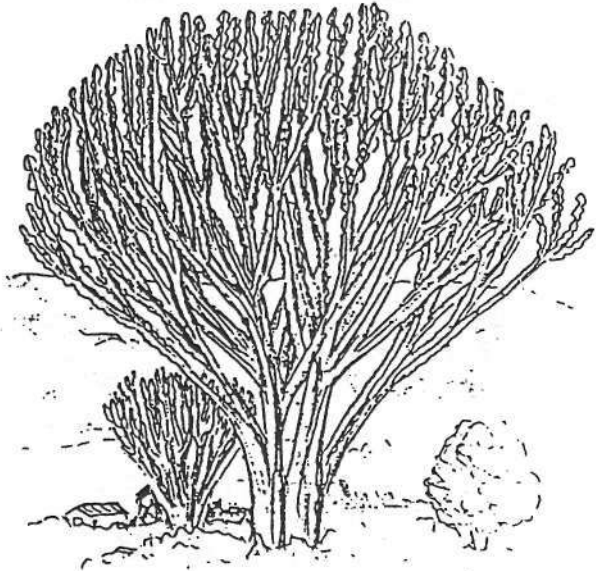
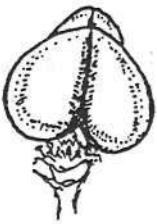
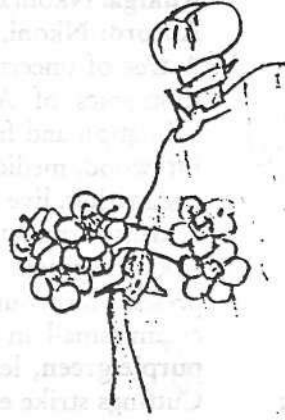
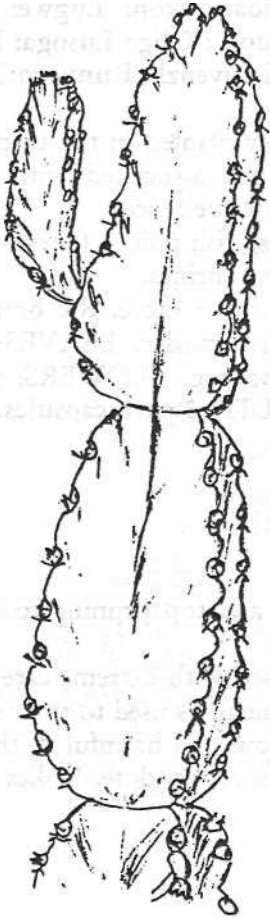
Seed: Seeds are contained in a capsule with three chambers. The capsule splits open noisily and scatters the seeds which germinate readily under mature trees or in thickets.

treatment: not necessary,

storage: no need to store.

Management: Fast growing.

Remarks: All parts of the plant produce copious milky latex which is poisonous; even one drop in the eye may cause blindness. When dry the light durable wood has many local uses and is good for roofing. Recommended as an ornamental and for fences grown from branch cuttings.



A. Birnie