## Euphorbia tirucalli

Uncertain: India or Africa

| Common names:          | <b>English:</b> Finger euphorbia <b>Luganda:</b> Nkoni <b>Lugwe:</b> Nkoni <b>Lunyuli:</b> Luhoni <b>Luo</b> A: Kilajok <b>Luo</b> L: Oligo <b>Lusoga:</b> Lukone <b>Rukiga:</b> Nkoni <b>Runyankore:</b> Nkoni, ruyenzhe <b>Runyoro:</b> Rukoni  |
|------------------------|---|
|                        | Rutoro: Nkoni.  |
| Ecology:               | A tree of uncertain origin commonly planted in the tropics and<br>subtropics of Asia and Africa. Much associated with human<br>habitation and frequently planted as a live fence.   |
| Uses:                  | Firewood, medicine (young branches), fish poison (latex), bound-<br>ary marker, live fence, planted around shrines.   |
| Description:           | A dense straight-stemmed tree to 6 m or more, <b>the branchlets</b><br><b>smooth green, cylindrical</b> in dense masses. LEAVES: small,<br>present on young stems, soon dropping. FLOWERS: yellow-<br>cream, small in dense clusters. FRUIT: <b>3-part capsules, hard,</b><br><b>purple-green,</b> less than 1 cm across. |
| Propagation:<br>Seed:  | Cuttings strike easily.   |
| treatment:<br>storage: |   |
| Management:            | Fast growing; coppicing, trimming and top pruning to make a fence.  |
| Remarks:               | Medicine from the plant must be used with extreme care due to<br>its toxicity. Ash from stems and branches is used to treat whoop-<br>ing cough. The latex is very poisonous and harmful to the eyes.<br>Human milk has been reported to be an antidote. Makes a good<br>fence to control erosion.                        |

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## Euphorbiaceae

