

Indigenous

Common names: **English:** Beechwood **Lugishu:** Morororia **Rukiga:** Mulenjere **Rukonjo:** Mukuka **Rutoro:** Mukuka **Sebei:** Moyokwo, maiyokwo.

Ecology: A tall tree found in low-to-high-altitude forest as far north as Nigeria and Sudan and south to southern Africa. It is common at the edges of the Impenetrable (Bwindi) Forest and of forests on Ruwenzori and Mufumbiro mountains, 2,100-3,000 m. A species of early forest successions.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber (furniture, construction), poles, posts, bee medicine (roots, bark), ornamental, windbreak, tannin (bark), dye (bark).

Description: A deciduous shrub or large forest tree to 20 m with a dense crown. Bole often 7-10 m, straight or twisted. It resembles a gum tree. **BARK:** almost black, rough with deep grooves. **LEAVES:** leathery, **shiny and drooping, long and narrow, to 12 cm**, tip pointed, edge wavy, often slightly curved, a short red stalk. **FLOWERS:** dense **silky spikes, cream-purple, honey scented and attracting bees**, calyx red and hairy. **FRUIT:** small nutlets, with silky white hairs, the reddish styles persist, and appear as **woolly pinkish-white spikes**.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings.

Seed: No. of seeds per kg: about 165,000.

treatment:

storage:

Perishable. Loses viability within a month. Fresh seed should be sown for best results.

Management: Growth rate is medium.

Remarks: The species is often left standing in croplands. Wood is resistant to termites. Hard, yellow-brown wood with an attractive grain, valued for furniture and panelling. Can be grown as individual trees or as a stand.

