

Indigenous

Common names: **Ateso:** Edulo, edurokoi **Ateso K:** Ekonotorum **English:** Cape fig
Luganda: Kabalira **Lugbara:** Idio **Luo L:** Ebuu **Lusoga:** Mukunyu
Madi: Elo **Rukiga:** Musomoro.

Ecology: A widespread African fig tree occurring in East Africa and extending to Yemen, Angola and South Africa. In Uganda it occurs in lowland and intermediate forests, being most common in Moyo, Kitgum, Gulu and Lira Districts and in Central and Western Regions, often left in cleared land.

Uses: Timber (local furniture, boxes), carving (mortars, beer canoes), food (fruit), shade, ceremonial.

Description: A large deciduous tree to 20 m and up to 150 cm in diameter, occasionally buttressed. **BARK:** smooth, grey, darker grey-brown with age. **LEAVES:** large, **broadly oval**, to 13 x 20 cm, usually smooth, **edge often widely toothed**, sometimes wavy, veins clear below, stalk grooved and flexible to 6 cm. **FIGS:** in **heavy clusters on branches** to 70 cm long **from trunk or older wood, round, 2-4 cm** across, on stalks, orange-red, often hairy, soft and edible but watery and tasteless, having many seeds and often insects too.

Propagation: Cuttings, wildings and seedlings.

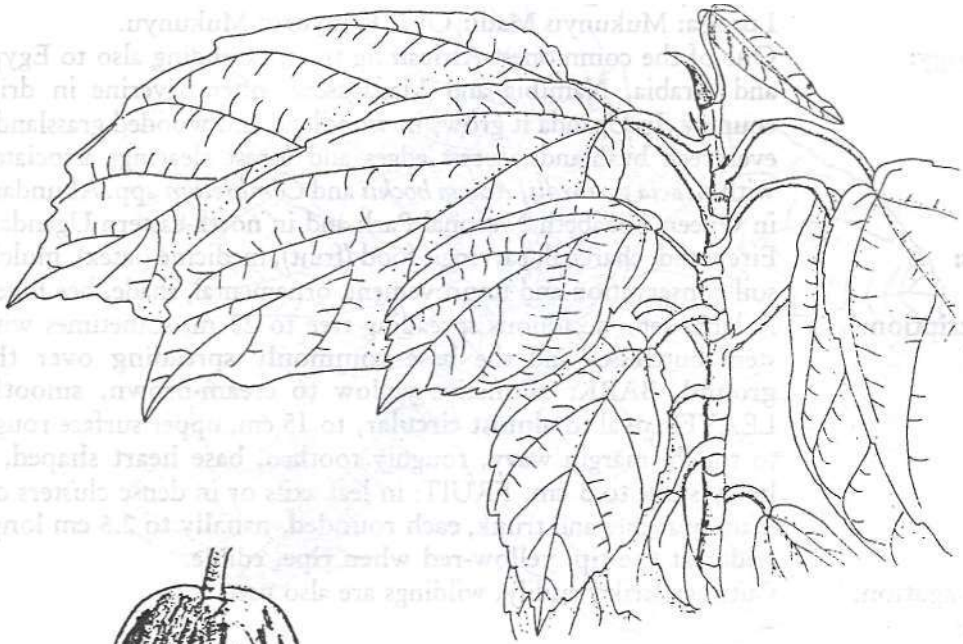
Seed: Seeds are contained in figs with a fleshy part several centimetres thick. Slice the fig, dry it in the sun and shake out the seeds,

treatment: not necessary.

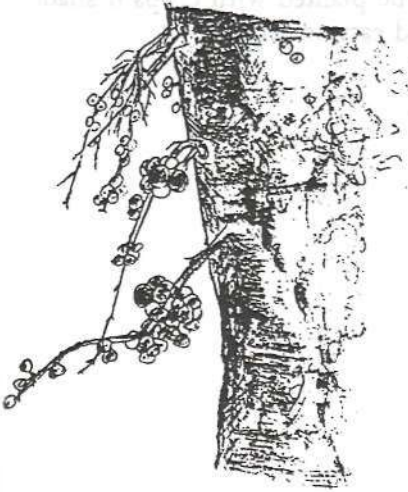
storage: should be sown soon after collection.

Management: Lopping, pollarding.

Remarks: The tree is considered moisture-trapping and other moisture-demanding plants are often found regenerating in its shade. It does not compete with agricultural crops. The leaves are used to make good-luck charms and the trunk to make mortars and "beer canoes



fruit



A. Birnie

