

Indigenous

- Common names:** **Kwamba:** Kiloko **Luganda:** Kabalira, mukunyu **Runyoro:** Mukunyu
- Ecology:** A tree of tropical rain forests extending to Guinea-Bissau, Angola and Tanzania. Well distributed in Uganda forests and when mature one of the largest forest trees, providing fruit for monkeys and birds. It may persist in cleared areas and is left in banana and coffee plantations.
- Uses:** Firewood (branches after felling), timber (beer canoes), carving, shade (in coffee and banana plantations and for people).
- Description:** An evergreen shrub or tree usually 12 m but up to 30 m with a straight trunk and large spreading branches to an open crown. **Buttresses prominent**, triangular, up to 4 m and spreading out as much along the ground. **BARK: smooth and brown**, very thin with **prominent ring marks** and lenticels, much white latex when cut and green just below the surface. Leafy branchlets, leaf stalks and coppice shoots are white with **short hairs** and also have **longer white and brown hairs**, especially at nodes. **The outer surface typically flakes off when dry.** **LEAVES:** stiff and papery, **oval to almost round**, 6-17 x 4-15 cm, the **upper surface rough with short stiff hairs, lower surface hairy**, with a **sharp tip and heart-shaped base to a long stalk 2-9 cm**. Young leaves may have irregularly-toothed edges; 3-6 pairs lateral veins and 2 main veins from the base extend beyond the middle of the leaf. **FIGS:** large and dark orange on leafless **branchlets to 30 cm growing out of large branches or the trunk, each fig stalked 1-2 cm and up to 3-5 cm across when fresh** (often smaller when dried), sweet-smelling, round to oval, hairy, the **ostiole opening having little bracts visible.**
- Propagation:** Seedlings, wildings.
- Seed:** The figs are abundantly produced and provide a lot of seed which have to be extracted and dried,
- treatment:** not necessary.
- storage:** can be stored for up to 2 months.
- Management:** Fast growing.
- Remarks:** It is a good nurse tree for crops like banana and coffee. Plant individual trees at wide spacing for shade in homesteads or intercrop with coffee or banana. The trunk is used for making beer "canoes" (big open trough-like containers in which beer is made) in Central Region.

