

Indigenous

Common names: **Ateso:** Eboliboli, ebuli **Luganda:** Kookowe, mukookowe, nserere **Lugwere:** Mukoko **Luo L:** Ebule **Lusoga:** Kookowe **Madi:** Kobakoba, odulindri **Runyankore:** Mutooma.

Ecology: A fig tree of deciduous woodland, wooded grassland, riverine or lakeside from Senegal to Ethiopia to Mozambique and northern Angola. Found in both savannah and forest areas of Uganda and widely planted in Central Region and in parts of Hoima and Kibale Districts.

Uses: Poles, shade, soil conservation and improvement, live fence, boundary demarcation, barkcloth.

Description: A shrub or even a climber, sometimes epiphytic on other trees, becoming a tree 12-15 m high, young branchlets stout and purple, ribbed. A spreading open crown. **BARK:** pale, thin and smooth. **LEAVES:** rather **large, about 22 x 12 cm** (9-31 cm long), the outer basal veins not reaching the middle of the leaf, 6-13 other veins each side, **tip long pointed**, the base rounded to a long stalk 3-10 cm. **FIGS:** single or paired, often with a **brown "bud cover"** at first: Fresh ripe figs long oval, 3-5 cm, **green** with white spots, **4 bracts persistent**.

Propagation: Use of cuttings is the quickest methods of propagation, but seedlings are also used.

Seed: The seeds are contained in the figs. Slice them in half, dry in the sun and then shake out the seeds.

treatment: not necessary.

storage: Add ash to reduce insect damage.

Management: Fast growing. Debark for cloth.

Remarks: The tree produces poles in a period of five years. In Mbarara and Masaka Districts it is planted for poles used in house building. Also good in compounds to provide shade. Plant cuttings or seedlings widely spaced as the mature tree has a spreading crown. Improves soil fertility if interplanted with crops as it does not compete with them. Also planted as a live fence and for marking boundaries. It yields a white barkcloth. The latex has been used as a treatment against ringworm.

