

Indigenous

**Common names:** **Ateso:** Ebule, ebulai **Lugbara:** Obo, oboloko **Lusoga:** Mukoko.

**Ecology:** A savannah fig tree extending to Somalia, Ethiopia and Senegal. In Uganda it is found in wooded grassland and on rocky patches, preferring dry savanna. It is common in Mbale, Kumi, Apac and Luwero Districts.

**Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, food (fruit), shade, latex (as glue for handles).

**Description:** A deciduous tree to 15 m, often epiphytic on other trees at first, the crown large and spreading, surface roots often prominent. **BARK:** rusty orange, large grey-brown patches. Branchlets 1-2 cm thick, white or hairy, **surface flaking when dry** and bearing large leaf scars. **LEAVES:** **large and stiff**, long oval, 15-26 cm long, 10-20 cm across, **edge wavy**, tip blunt or pointed, the **base heart-shaped**, smooth above but rough white below, lateral veins red when young, 10-16 pairs, **the lowest pair extending far below the middle of the blade, leaf stalk 4-10 cm**. **FIGS:** numerous in clusters of 2-5 towards the tip of the branchlets, on stalks 1.0-2.5 cm, beside or below leaves, persistent bracts at the base, figs rounded, 1-2 **cm across** when fresh, **greenish** when ripe, the surface hairy or not, often bumpy (warted), edible.

**Propagation:** Cuttings, seedlings.

**Seed:** Figs are abundant and provide a lot of seed which should be extracted and dried,

**treatment:** not necessary,

**storage:** can be stored up to two months.

**Management:**

**Remarks:** The tree produces Niger Gutta which used to be used in the manufacture of chewing gum in the USA. Plant around homes for shade. The timber is heavy and pale brown.

*Ficus platyphylla*

*Moraceae*

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