

Indigenous

Common names: **Ateso:** Eborborei, ejinga **English:** Sycomore fig **Luganda:** Mukunyu **Lugbara:** Ologo **Lugwere:** Kinabule **Luo:** Olam **Lusoga:** Mukunyu **Madi:** Oleo **Runyoro:** Mukunyu.

Ecology: One of the commonest African fig trees, extending also to Egypt and Arabia, Namibia and Madagascar, often riverine in drier country. In Uganda it grows in woodland and wooded grasslands, evergreen bushlands, forest edges and forest clearings associated with *Acacia gerrardii*, *Acacia hockii* and *Combretum* spp. Abundant in Queen Elizabeth National Park and in north-eastern Uganda.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, carvings, food (fruit), medicine (latex), mulch, soil conservation and improvement, ornamental, shade, bee hives.

Description: A large semi-deciduous spreading tree to 25 m, sometimes with stem buttresses and the **base commonly spreading over the ground**. **BARK:** distinctive **yellow to cream-brown, smooth**. **LEAVES:** oval to **almost circular**, to 15 cm, upper surface rough to touch, margin wavy, roughly toothed, **base heart shaped**, a **hairy stalk to 3 cm**. **FRUIT:** in leaf axils or in dense clusters on main branches and trunk, **each rounded, usually to 2.5 cm long, wider at the tip, yellow-red when ripe**, edible.

Propagation: Cuttings strike readily, wildings are also used.

Seed:

treatment: -

storage:

Management: Fairly fast growing. Pruning, lopping to reduce shade.

Remarks: A sacred tree for various communities. Figs are eaten by livestock, birds and wild animals. They can also be dried and have a good flavour and high food value. Can be planted with crops if shade is controlled. The wood is pale and easy to work.

