

Indigenous

Common names: Luo: Pwoyo.

Ecology: A fig tree of dry north and eastern Africa, Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia and Saudi Arabia. In Uganda it is riverine in dry savannah often forming stands or thickets. Common in Moroto and Kotido Districts.

Uses: Firewood, timber (utensils, furniture), food (figs).

Description: A tree to 25 m with a spreading rounded crown, occasionally an epiphyte. Young branches thick with soft dense hairs, 5-12 mm, yellow-white-brown, skin flaking when dry. LEAVES: quite stiff and **almost circular 8-25 x 4-23 cm** across, the tip rounded but often with a blunt point, base rounded, heart-shaped, leaf stalk 3-12 cm, hairy, well-marked veins below also hairy, the two outer veins reach up to the middle of the leaf, all veins forking clearly at the leaf edge. FIGS: 1-2 together beside or just below leaves, hardly stalked, almost round about 2 cm across when fresh, green with paler spots when ripe, hairy, the opening clear.

Propagation: Cuttings, seedlings and wildings.

Seed: Seed is "abundant in the figs and has to be extracted and dried.

treatment: not necessary.

storage: can be stored up to two months.

Management: Lopping, pollarding.

Remarks: Wild *F. vasta* have provided food in times of famine and it is a useful tree to cultivate. The figs are either eaten when half dry or stored after drying completely and eaten stewed. Plant at wide spacing.

