

Indigenous

**Common names:** **Ateso:** Bushishi **Ateso K:** Chia **English:** Hagenia **Lugishu:** Kisichetwa, museregego, nafuru **Luo A:** Leo **Rukiga:** Omujesi **Sebei:** Sigurwa.

**Ecology:** First described in Ethiopia and found also in East Africa, this tree is often dominant in the woodland zone just above mountain bamboo. It is common in the highlands of Kabale District and large trees are found on Mount Elgon.

**Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, timber (furniture, flooring, carving), poles, medicine (bark, flowers, roots), mulch, soil conservation, ornamental, firebreak.

**Description:** A tree to 20 m with a short trunk and thick branches, the crown leafy and rounded. **BARK:** red-brown, thick, flaking irregularly, branchlets covered in silky brown hairs and ringed with leaf scars. **LEAVES:** compound to 40 cm in **large terminal tufts, 5-8 leaflets** on each side, leaflets bright green above, covered with **silvery hairs below**, red and sticky when young, **leaf edge toothed and fringed with hairs, stalk winged and hairy.** **FLOWERS:** in large **attractive masses to 60 cm**, female **heads pink-red**, male heads more feathery, orange-white. The sexes are on different trees. **FRUIT:** small and dry.

**Propagation:** Seedlings, wildings.

**Seed:** Germination 40-60% in 14-21 days. No. of seeds per kg: 400,000-500,000.

**treatment:** not necessary.

**storage:** seed stores for 6-12 months.

**Management:** Pollarding.

**Remarks:** The wood is dark red, hard and useful for furniture but attacked by borers. Not competitive with crops if managed to prevent shading, thus suitable for agroforestry. It is recommended for homestead planting for its good timber. It constantly sheds leaves forming a carpet of dried leaves below.

