

Hallea rubrostipulata (Mitragyne rubrostipulata) *Rubiaceae*

Indigenous

Common names: **Kwamba:** Munyamaize **Luganda:** Nzingu **Rukiga:** Muziko
Runyankore: Muzingu, mutoro, mutororo **Rutoro:** Muzingu, mutoro, mutororo.

Ecology: A tree found in Rwanda, Tanzania, Ethiopia and south to Malawi where it grows in swamp forest or wet upland forest to 2,000 m. In Uganda, it grows in permanently waterlogged areas and sometimes in seasonal swamps in Kabale and Rukungiri District and in Kalinzu Forest. It is abundant in the swamps of the Lake Victoria forest zone.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber, dugout canoes, soil conservation.

Description: A tree to 15 m, bole sometimes crooked but often straight in a stand, a few large branches to a rounded crown. **BARK:** light grey-brown, fairly rough and thick with vertical or irregular fissures, flaking in squarish patches. Branchlets 4-angled. **LEAVES:** **large, in opposite pairs, shiny above, widely oval, about 20 x 14 cm** (young leaves even bigger), tip pointed, 7-11 side veins, base sometimes rounded to a stalk about 3 cm (variable), widest in the middle, **thinly papery and hairy with 6-10 veins and a clear network in between.** **FLOWERS:** in dense **round heads 2.5 cm across, green-yellow-white** and sweetly scented, on **stalks 3-7 cm.** Flower heads up to 15 on a branching stalk terminal or beside leads. The small individual flowers are tubular, **lobes hardly opening, stamens well inside but styles hanging out, the tiny calyx tube clearly lobed.** Between flowers there are long bracts. **FRUIT:** each small fruit in the head is a **capsule about 1 cm long, crowned by the persistent calyx,** Inside are tiny winged seeds.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings, root suckers.

Seed: The seeds are hard to find when they fall on the ground. Collect mature flower heads then dry on polythene sheeting in the sun. The tiny seeds can then be collected as the capsules split open.

treatment: Not necessary.

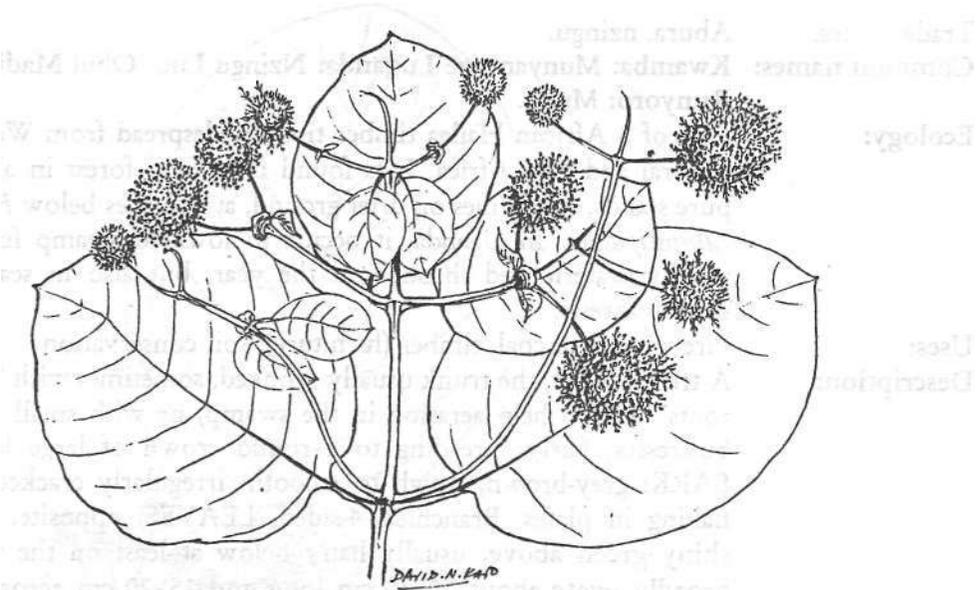
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Management: Pollarding.

Remarks: This species would be very useful in checking flooding on degraded upland rivers, but suitable methods of planting and management are yet to be developed. The timber is reasonably good.

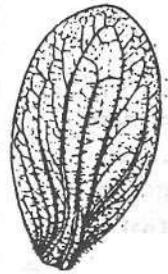
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Rubiaceae



enlarged
flower

leafy
stipule



enlarged
fruit

