

Indigenous

Common names: **Luganda:** Mulirira **Madi:** Asonbere **Rukiga:** Mungolero, munianga, muliamanga **Runyankore:** Mutaha **Rutoro:** Murinda, musoga.

Ecology: A common and widely distributed tree from the Sudan to South Africa, often a pioneer when forest has been cleared; also riverine at medium to low altitudes. In Uganda, it grows at forest edges and in secondary scrub, usually associated with *Maesopsis eminii* and *Trema orientalis*, 1,000-1,600 m.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber, poles, dye (bark).

Description: A pioneer shrub or tree 3-18 m, usually much branched, but occasionally with a cylindrical trunk to 25 m (Bwindi Forest). **BARK:** red-brown, scaling. **Sap blood red when cut, also from branches and leaves. Branchlets, young leaves, leaf stalks all appear orange-brown** as they are covered with short rusty hairs. **LEAVES:** opposite and simple oval, 6-20 cm long, tip pointed, base rounded, glands visible against the light, **shiny dark green above, rusty brown below.** The youngest leaves at the tips of branches- remain tightly pressed together until quite large, the **brown lower surfaces quite characteristic.** Leaf stalk to 3 cm. **FLOWERS:** very small, with sweet almond scent, in dense **many-flowered terminal heads, 8-20 cm across, rather flat;** the 5 tiny white petals have black gland dots. **FRUIT:** very small, 3-4 mm, rather dry, green-orange, then **deep red in heavy massed heads 25-30 cm across.**

Propagation: Seedlings (sow seed in pots), wildings, direct sowing at site.

Seed: Collect mature fruit from standing trees, extract the seed and dry them for sowing in a nursery or directly on site,

treatment: not necessary. Seeds will germinate soon after sowing,

storage: very much liked by insects. Should be kept in sealed containers and sown within two months. Add ash to reduce insect damage.

Management: Germination is excellent resulting in a pure stand if sown in a prepared area. Thinning may be needed for adequate growth.

Remarks: This is a quick-growing species which will yield fuel and building poles in a very short time. The bark is used to dye palm leaves for making mats and other craft items. The wood is pink-yellow, light and used for as cheap timber. It is liable to insect attack.

"

