

Indigenous

- Trade names:** African mahogany, munyama, red mahogany, Uganda mahogany.
- Common names:** **Kwamba:** Kirumbo **Runyoro:** Munyama **Rutoro:** Munyama.
- Ecology:** A tall timber tree of tropical rain forests from Tanzania south to Mozambique at medium to low altitudes, often riverine. In Uganda, it occurs in Budongo, Bugoma and Semliki Forests in the Western Region. At one time it provided half the total timber taken from Budongo Forest. It does best in deep fertile soils with subsoil moisture and can withstand seasonal flooding.
- Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, timber, shade, ornamental (avenue tree).
- Description:** A semi-deciduous forest tree to **60 m, often a straight bole to 30 m** before branching to a **massive crown** (branching lower down if riverine), large trees with prominent surface roots and **buttresses 4-6 m**. The bole may reach 4 m in diameter above the buttresses. **BARK: grey, smooth** but with shield-like scars from **flakes 3 cm across, the surface "pock marked"** grey and brown. **LEAVES:** even pinnate to 30 cm with **2-7 pairs of oblong leaflets, each stiff to 17 cm, shortly stalked**. Leaves clustered at branch ends. New leaves pink-brown. **FLOWERS:** small, 1 cm, **white and sweet-scented** in heads, often hidden among the leaves. **FRUIT:** a **dry capsule about 5 cm across**, grey brown, breaks into 4-5 sections, rather flower-shaped, on the tree, scattering 30-60 pale, **flat winged seeds**. **The capsule is a uniform chocolate-brown inside.**
- Propagation:** Seedlings (sow seed in pots), wildings.
- Seed:** The capsules are very high up on the mother trees and the seeds are widely scattered when they split. No. of seeds per kg: about 3,600. Seeds are best sown in seed beds,
- treatment:** not necessary.
- storage:** insects attack the seeds while still on the tree. Select undamaged seed and store in a cool dry place. Add ash to reduce insect damage.
- Management:** In plantations, tend until established. *Khaya anthotheca* suffers from shoot borers.
- Remarks:** Uganda mahogany is of a high grade and occupies a basic position in the timber trade of East Africa. The pale pink fresh timber turns red-brown and is easy to work. It is suitable for joinery, decorative furniture, etc. It should be encouraged for planting along river banks and in degraded forest areas. It is also good for shade, doing well as an avenue tree.

