

Indigenous

Trade names: African mahogany, tido.

Common names: **English:** Big-leaf mahogany **Lugbara:** Mario **Luo:** Tido **Madi:** Eri **Runyoro:** Munyama.

Ecology: The East African khayas are very similar in flower and fruit, differing in small features of leaves and fruit. However, they each grow in quite different areas. From Guinea Bissau to an eastern limit in northern Uganda, this species is found largely on alluvial valley soils of gallery forest and beside streams in higher-rainfall savanna. It grows in Budongo, in the northern section of deciduous forest as well as in Northern Region and Moyo District.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber (veneer, panelling, cabinet making and superior joinery), shade, ornamental (avenue tree), soil conservation and improvement, river-bank protection.

Description: A semi-deciduous tree **usually less than 20 m** but up to 30 m, the bole often crooked, not or only slightly buttresses. **BARK:** pale grey, upper bole smooth but cracking into irregular scales near the base. **LEAVES:** even pinnate to 50 cm long clustered at branch ends with **6-10 stiff shiny leaflets**, each one **more than 12 cm long** and 5 cm across, the **tip with a sharp point, often twisted**. New leaves pink. **FLOWERS:** cream white in heads to 35 cm beside leaves. **FRUIT:** a rounded woody capsule, grey-brown, **about 7 cm diameter, breaking into 5 parts** to release flat, oblong red-brown winged seeds.

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 3,400. Seeds best sown in seed beds,

treatment: not necessary.

storage: insects attack the seeds while still on the mother tree. Select undamaged seed and store in a cool dry cool place. Add ash to reduce insect damage.

Management: Tend the seedlings until established. *Khaya grandifoliola* suffers from shoot borers.

Remarks: Trees that have grown in savannah have darker timber than riverine ones. The timber has good working qualities, taking a high polish, and resembles true mahogany (*Swietenia*) more than other *Khaya* species. This species is particularly recommended for reforestation of river banks. Suited for planting in Kitgum, Gulu, Moyo, Arua and Nebbi Districts.

