

*Kigelia africana* (K. aethiopum, K. pinnata)

*Bignoniaceae*

Indigenous

**Common names:** Ateso: Edodoi **English:** Sausage tree **Luganda:** Mussa **Lugbara:** Odolo, odologo, nugile **Lugishu:** Lukulungu, chifungo **Lugwere:** Mwiago **Lunyuli:** Mujungwe **Luo:** Yago **Lusoga:** Muvunjudza **Madi:** Lado **Runyoro:** Muikya, mulolo **Rutoro:** Mwikya.

**Ecology:** A tree widespread in Africa, found in wet savannah and along rivers in moist forests 1,100-3,000 m.

**Uses:** Firewood, timber (dugout canoes, yokes), medicine (fruit, bark), dye (boiled fruit), local honey beer (fruit).

**Description** A semi-deciduous tree with a rounded crown, to 9 m in open woodland but 18 m beside rivers. **BARK:** grey-brown, smooth, flaking in round patches with age. **LEAVES:** compound, **growing in threes**, at the end of branches, few leaflets, each broadly oval, **very rough and hard, up to 10 cm**, often with a **sharp tip, edge wavy**. **FLOWERS:** on long rope-like stalks 2-3 m. Horizontal, reddish branches, in threes, bear upturned trumpet-like flowers, petals folded and wavy, **dark maroon with heavy yellow veins** outside, an'unpleasant smell. **FRUIT:** large **grey-green "sausages"**, 30-60 cm long. Hanging stalks remain on the tree. Several kilos of fibrous pulp contain the seeds—only released when fruit rots on the ground.

**Propagation:** Seedlings, wildings.

**Seed:** not a prolific seeder. Poor germination rate and slow to germinate. No. of seeds per kg: 3,400-6,000.

**treatment:** not necessary.

**storage:** Seed should not be stored.

**Management:** Slow growing.

**Remarks:** Unripe fruit are poisonous. The tree does not compete with crops. In Uganda, *Kigelia africana* is conserved around homes and gardens for medicinal purposes.

