

Indigenous

Common names: Luganda: Mukowa.

Ecology: A widely distributed tree but nowhere common—recorded in Kenya coastal forest. In Uganda it grows in colonizing forest, at forest edges and in mixed tropical rain forest. Common in Mabira and Semliki Forest and in the forests near the shores of Lake Victoria. Often grows in isolated stands within the forests.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber, shade, ornamental.

Description: A forest tree 10-30 m, the trunk straight and clear of branches 9-15 m, large branches to a spreading crown. Trunk not fluted and without buttresses. **BARK:** thin, smooth or finely ridged, grey, scaling in pieces 5 cm across, inner bark red, smelling like mahogany. **LEAVES:** clustered at ends of branches, **on stalks 30-40 cm long, usually 5-7 leaflets, each about 13 cm long with 9-15 lateral veins, central leaflet stalked, 3-4 cm, tip long pointed.** **FLOWERS:** terminal or beside leaves on **branched stalks to 20 cm**, with yellow-brown hairs, flowers tiny and yellow. **FRUIT:** purple when ripe, to 8 mm long, containing seed.

Propagation: Seedlings, direct sowing on site.

Seed: Fruit are collected from the ground, gradually dried and sown in seed beds or directly on site.

treatment: not necessary.

storage: can be stored for up to two months in sealed containers in a cool place.

Management: Fast growing; coppicing, pollarding. Initial tending necessary.

Remarks: It is a fast-growing species that would be ideal for intercropping with coffee and cocoa and as an avenue tree. The timber is white, light and pliable.

