

Indigenous

**Trade names:** Nkoba, Uganda walnut.

**Common names:** **Luganda:** Nkoba **Runyoro:** Nkoba **Rutoro:** Mukusu.

**Ecology:** A canopy tree of rain forest from Sierra Leone east to Tanzania and south to Angola. It is relatively common and exported from West Africa as timber. In Uganda it is found in thickets, gallery forest and mixed tropical rain forests and is abundant in forest on the shores of Lake Victoria.

**Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, timber (furniture, doors, windows, veneer, canoes), ornamental (avenue tree).

**Description:** An evergreen tree to 40 m, the trunk straight or wavy to a small or spreading dark crown. Buttresses usually absent, but trunk may spread out at the base. **BARK:** thin and smooth, **brown, sometimes dark and fissured in older trees, strongly scented if cut.** **LEAVES:** even pinnate on stalks to 24 cm, stalk flat or winged between leaflet pairs, **6-12 leaflets, the same size at the base, about 10 cm long with about 20 closely spaced side veins each side.** **FLOWERS:** abundant, small and white in large heads to 30 cm (stalks not hairy). **FRUIT:** a brown capsule, hanging down, about 5 mm long, **4-angled, opening first from below, or both ends together,** to release winged seeds about 5 cm long.

**Propagation:** Seedlings, wildings.

**Seed:** The species seeds profusely and winged seeds have to be searched for on the ground. No. of seeds per kg: about 4,400.

**treatment:** sow with wings up and cover <sup>3</sup>A of actual seed with soil.

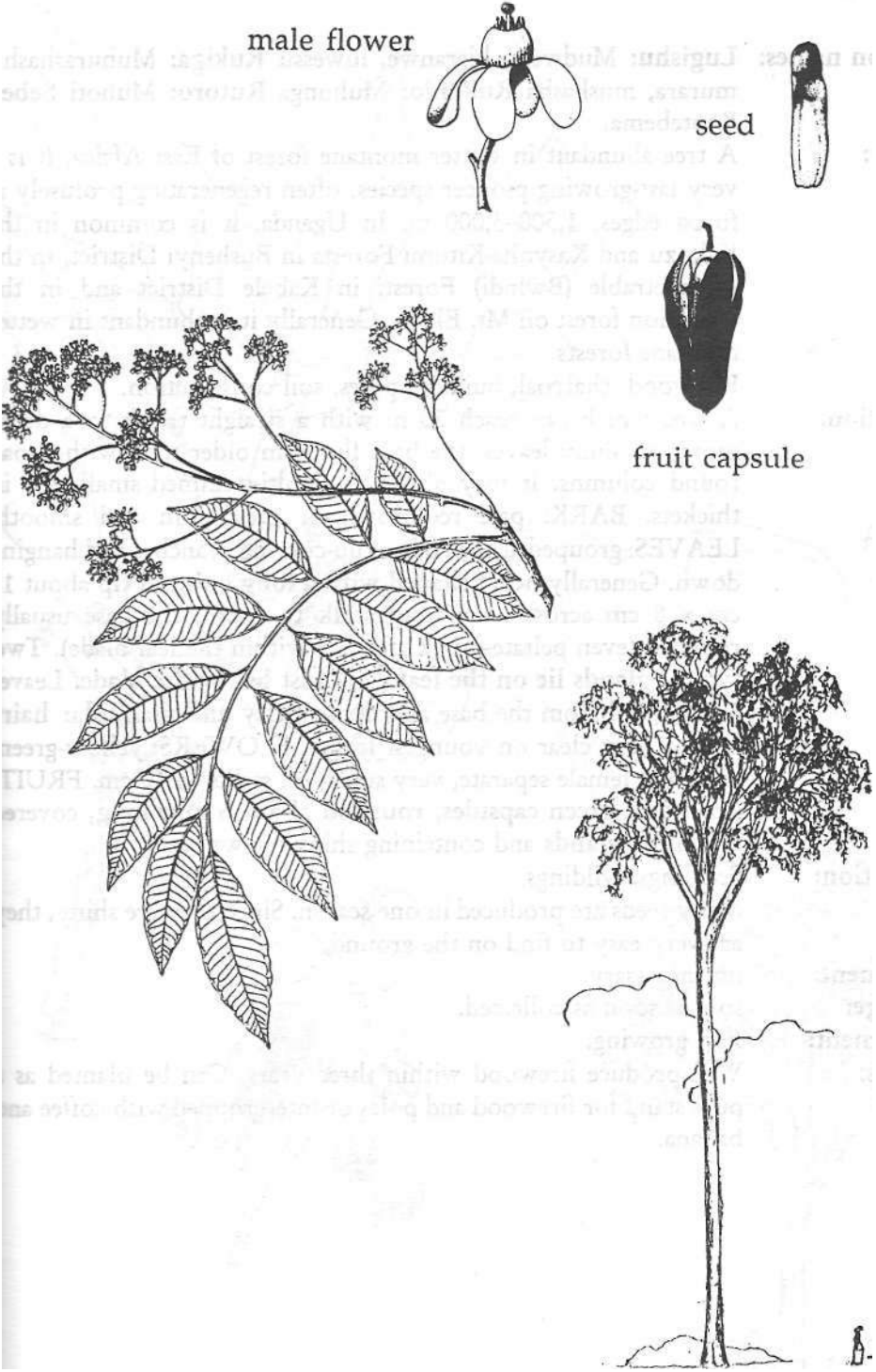
**storage:** very susceptible to insect attack. Store in sealed containers in a cool place and add ash to reduce insect damage.

**Management:** *Lovoa trichilioides* tends to branch early and pruning should be done.

**Remarks:** Does well as a pure stand or together with crops, e.g. in coffee and banana plantations. It is also a good avenue tree. It is being promoted in Masaka and Rakai Districts in tree-planting projects. The timber is well known in the Lake Victoria area where it is common and regenerating and where the golden-brown timber is well known to carpenters and used for furniture. However, it is rare elsewhere.

**Lovoa trichilioides (L. brownii)**

*Meliaceae*



male flower

seed

fruit capsule