

Indigenous

Common names: **Kwamba:** Mutaka **Luganda:** Kiwondowondo **Lugishu:** Naporo, nabutusa, kisangulia, kisiangulu **Lusoga:** Kusekseke **Rukiga:** Muhanga **Rukonjo:** Muhanga-honga **Runyankore:** Muhanga-bagenzi **Rutoro:** Muhanga-bagenzi **Sebei:** Gogorwo.

Ecology: A straggling shrub or tree in woodlands below 2,400 m extending to Southern Africa. It is often the first woody species in a succession to forest and is often riverine beside upland streams.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, medicine (root, leaves), live fence.

Description: A shrub or small tree about 5 m. **BARK:** grey-brown, rough; pale dots of breathing pores on branchlets. **LEAVES:** simple, **wide oval**, usually up to 10 cm long, shiny green above, **pale below**, thick and leathery, the edge **well toothed, tip pointed**, a leaf stalk 2-3 cm, often yellow. **FLOWERS:** **tiny cream-white**, in fragrant branched heads to 10 cm beside leaves; stalks and calyx hairy. **FRUIT:** very small, round, **white and fleshy, topped by the flower remains**. Small black seeds inside.

Propagation: Direct sowing at site, wildings.

Seed: Seeds prolifically. Collect seed from the mother tree and dry in the sun.

treatment: not necessary.

storage: sow as soon as collected.

Management: Fast growing. Coppicing, pollarding.

Remarks: Two forms exist in Uganda, namely the highland and the lowland Maesa. The highland form grows into a tree, while the lowland one remains mainly a shrub. The root has been used to treat psychiatric disorders, ulcers, diarrhoea and as an anti-emetic and the leaves to treat febrile convulsions in children.

