# Margaritaria discoidea     *Euphorbiaceae*

Indigenous

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| **Common names:** | **Ateso:** Erionoi **Kwamba:** Amakeke **Luganda:** Kamenyambazi **Luganda, dialect Buddu:** Kataibale **Lugwere:** Lukamakambugo, mutaigumbwa **Luo** A: Otego, atego **Luo** L: Atego **Lusoga:** Luka, kattinganfulu, kakazi **Madi:** Odzeki **Rukiga:** Mukale, musongati, muhahara **Runyankore:** Muremampango. |
| **Ecology:** | A widespread African tree of moist or dry forest margins, often a pioneer of lowland forest (Sudan), becoming dominant and then dying out. In Uganda it grows in thickets in savanna, secondary scrub and on forest edges. |
| **Uses:** | Firewood, charcoal, timber (cabinet work), poles. |
| **Description:** | A deciduous tree 4-25 m high, very variable depending on the habitat. Usually branched near the base, a spreading and drooping branchlets. Branches on young trees are at right angles to the trunk. BARK: thin, smooth grey-brown, slightly fissured becoming rough and fibrous and scaling in big pieces with age. LEAVES: simple, alternate, sometimes appear compound on young shoots, variable in size, **oval bright green and thin,** about 10 cm, **veins indistinct,** edge of leaf clear when held up to the light. FLOWERS: male and female trees, flowers, small and inconspicuous, **green-yellow and fragrant,** appear on the bare tree. **FRUIT: yellow-brown 3-part capsule 1 cm or less,** breaking open to set free **3 blue-black metallic-shiny seeds.** |
| **Propagation: Seed:** | Seedlings, wildings, direct sowing at site. Seeds prolifically. Unopen capsules can be collected from under the mother tree, then crushed and the seeds separated from the chaff. |
| **treatment:** | soaking in cold water for 12 hours before sowing will hasten germination. |
| **storage:** | store in sealed containers in a cool place. Coppicing, pollarding, pruning. |
| **Management: Remarks:** | This is a suitable tree for forest plantations and woodlots in northern Uganda. It has been grown together with *Markhamia lutea* in the Northern Region. The timber is hard and heavy. Coppice shoots make good building poles. The synonym is *Phyllanthus discoideus.* |