Indigenous

**Ecology:** A shrubby tree widespread in Africa, very variable with different

forms in different habitats from rain forest to woodland and bushland. In Uganda, it grows in secondary forests, thickets and at forest edges and is abundant in the Kibale, Maramagambo and

Impenetrable (Bwindi) Forests.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber (local construction), farm tools,

medicine (roots), live fence, ornamental.

**Description:** Usually a **spineless shrub** 2-3 m, but may be a well-branched tree

to 10 m. BARK: grey-brown, smooth, later finely grooved. The branches have **no hairs or spines.** LEAVES: thinly leathery and shiny, **oval to circular, 3-13 cm** long, the **edge toothed,** narrowing to a short stalk. Alternate, **rarely grouped together.** FLOW-ERS: tiny, white-cream-yellow, in small heads of 2-10 flowers, only 1 cm long. FRUIT: small red capsules about 5 mm, in 3 parts. Shiny orange-brown seeds **half covered by a thin aril,** 

orange and soft.

**Propagation:** Seedlings, wildings.

Seed: Contained in a capsule. Seeds can be collected from the ground,

treatment: not necessary.

**storage:** store in sealed containers in a cool place.

Management: Coppicing, pollarding.

**Remarks:** The wood is red and heavy. The trees grow easily from seed.

Raise as a pure stand.

