

Indigenous

Common names: English: Milletia **Rukiga:** Mutate, mutete **Runyankore:** Kiragara, murongo **Rutoro:** Muhakwa.

Ecology: A small tree of moist forest edges or beneath more open forest in Kenya and Ethiopia as well as Uganda. In Uganda, it is found in understorey moist tropical rain forest and is abundant in Kibale and Maramagambo Forests. The specific name reflects the locality from where the first botanical collection was made: the Dura River in Kibale Forest.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, poles, tool handles, fodder (leaves), shade, ornamental, mulch, soil conservation and improvement.

Description: A much-branched deciduous tree to 15 m with light foliage. **BARK:** grey and smooth. **LEAVES:** compound, dull green **5-12 pairs leaflets**, each one to 5 cm, often unequal-sided. **Young leaves and stalks have orange-brown hairs.** The base of the stalk has a thickening (the pulvinus). **FLOWERS:** **mauve sprays to 20 cm**, often on the bare tree, pea-shaped flowers, petals over 2 cm long. **FRUIT:** **thick flat pods** to 25 x 2 cm, splitting open explosively.

Propagation Seedlings (sow seed in pots), direct sowing on site, wildings.

Seed: No. of seeds per kg: 6,000-7,000. Germination is very good; up to 80% after 20 days.

treatment: none, or soak in cold water for 6 hours.

storage: can be stored for some years if kept dry and insect free. Add ash to reduce insect damage.

Management: Fairly fast growing; coppicing and pollarding.

Remarks: The wood is tough and resistant to termites. The tree has been planted between tea bushes to enrich the soil and for shade. Its purple flowers are very decorative so it has been widely planted as an ornamental.

