Mimusops bagshawei

Indigenous

**Common names:** Kwamba: Mbande Luganda: Musandasanda, musali Luganda, dialect Buddu: Nkunya Lusoga: Musali.

**Ecology:** A widespread tree in Kenya, Tanzania and southern Sudan as well as in Uganda in lowland and upland rain forest. It is well distributed in Uganda except in North Eastern Region.

**Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, carvings, pig feed (seeds), shade.

**Description:** A tree with a straight high reaching 40 m, to a large spreading crown, sometimes fluted at the base but not buttressed. BARK: thick and dark brown, deeply channelled, often cross cut into small rectangles, white latex when cut. Twigs deep purple-brown, rough and fissured. LEAVES: long oval, stiff, often wider at the tip (not clustered at ends of branchlets), 7-12 cm long, veins slightly raised but generally indistinct, shiny dark green above, pale and dull below, edge wavy, tip drawn out, leaf stalk hairy 1-2 cm. FLOWERS: green-yellow-cream, fragrant and small on hairy stalks to 1 cm, 2-4 beside leaves, outer sepals with pale brown hairs, sepals and petals appear numerous, central ovary hairy brown. FRUIT: orange-yellow berry about 3 x 2 cm, oval, tip pointed, edible, grey hairs when young, containing 1-3 brown seeds.

**Propagation:** Seedlings (sow seed in pots), wildings.

**Seed:** Birds and monkeys eat the sweet pulp and throw the seeds to the ground. Or whole fruit can be collected from the ground and the seeds squeezed out.

**treatment:** not necessary.

**storage:** add ash to reduce insect damage and store in a dry cool place.

**Management:** Lopping, pollarding.

**Remarks:** The tree produces abundant fruit which can be fed to pigs. It can be intercropped with coffee and banana, planted in mixed forest plantations and grown as a shade tree.
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Sapotaceae