

Indigenous

Common names: **Ateso:** Elepolepo **English:** Mimusops, red milkwood **Kwamba:** Njenjeka.

Ecology: A widespread East African tree extending to Ethiopia, the Sudan and West Africa in riverine vegetation and also in dry evergreen forest. In Uganda it grows in wooded grassland and woodland and is common in thickets surrounding rocky outcrops. It prefers a dry climate and occurs in Eastern, North Eastern and Northern Regions and in Moyo District.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber (heavy construction, local construction), tool handles, local utensils, food (fruit).

Description: An evergreen tree which can reach 35 m and have a diameter of more than 1 m, the crown leafy and oval. **BARK:** dark grey, rough and deeply grooved, **branchlets covered with red-brown hairs.** **LEAVES:** oval to 10 cm, the tip blunt, the **midrib below hairy** and also the **leaf stalk to 15 mm.** **FLOWERS:** fragrant, cream-white, 1-4 in leaf axils, on stalks to 2-5 cm. Flower parts in fours, rather flat, star-shaped, **stalks and outer calyx with brown hairs,** central ovary with silky pale hairs. **FRUIT:** A **drupe to 2 cm,** pointed and orange-yellow, contains **one** red-brown seed.

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

Seed: Contained in the drupe. Remove outer coat to release seed, not necessary.

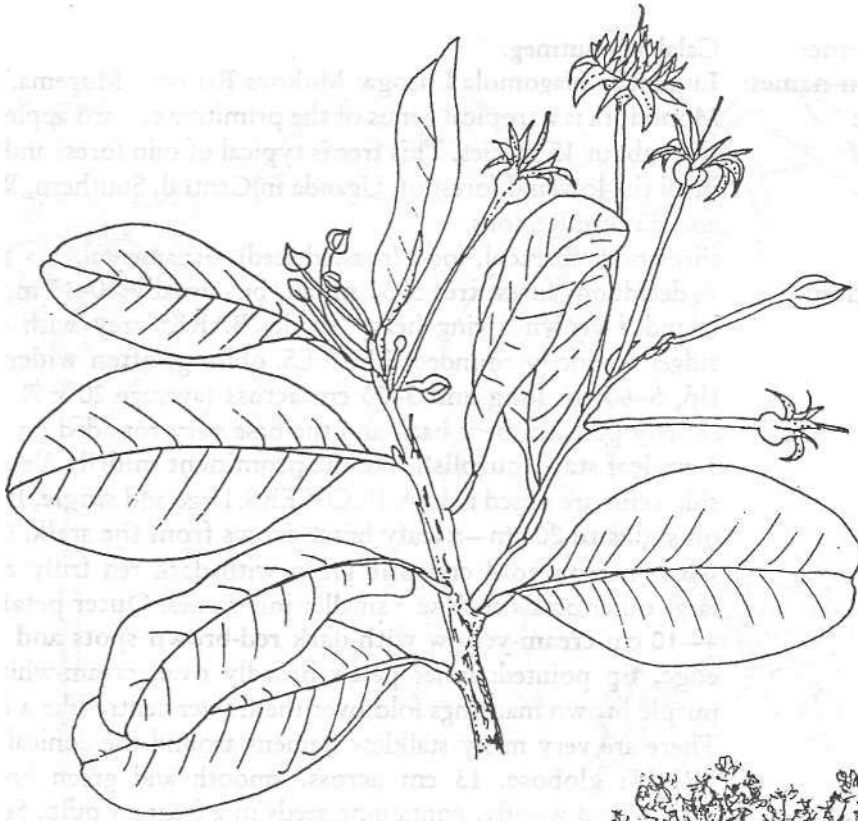
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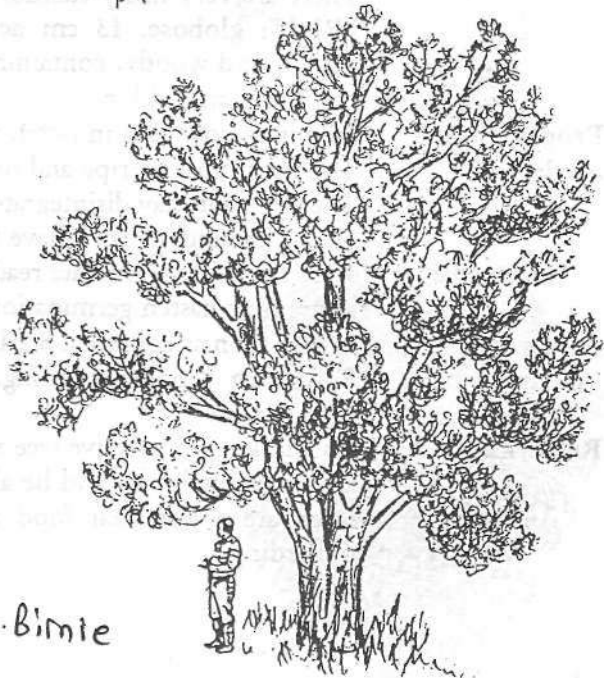
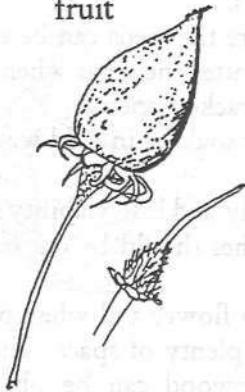
stores well in a dry cool place. Add ash to reduce insect damage.

Management: Pruning, lopping, pollarding.

Remarks: The wood is hard and heavy. The leaf stalk in *M. kummel* is shorter than in *M. bagshawei*, but the flower stalk is longer.



fruit



A. Bimie