

Indigenous

Common names: **Kwamba:** Mukiringi **Luganda:** Mubajansayi **Lugwe:** Musinganjovu **Lusoga:** Mulyambwa.

Ecology: A small tree, sometimes shrubby, and light demanding. In Uganda it grows in secondary scrub, in thickets on termite mounds and at forest margins. Common in thickets and forests near the shores of Lake Victoria.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber (furniture, cabinet work), ornamental, dye (roots).

Description: A small tree to 12 m high, the branchlets hanging down with many curves and bends; the bole often crooked, thick branches and a dense shady crown. **BARK:** smooth and grey, branches corky, sometimes purple, often 4-sided. **LEAVES:** **opposite and shiny, about 13 cm long to 18 cm) with 7-10 main side veins each side of the midrib all quite yellow**, tip shortly pointed, base wide to a 1 cm stalk. **Leafy stipules** at nodes of young shoots are large and rounded **about 1.5 cm across and 2 cm long** (soon falling). Hairs in vein axils below. **FLOWERS:** fragrant, white, 1-3 in leaf axils, about 2.5 cm long. **FRUIT:** deeply lobed to 2.0 cm, black when ripe, containing the seeds.

Propagation: Wildings, seedlings.

Seed: A composite fruit which opens to set free the seeds. However, the seeds are small therefore it is better to collect ripe fruit and put them on plastic sheeting to dry out.

treatment: not necessary.

storage: can be stored up to 2 months in a dry and cool place.

Management: Lopping, pollarding.

Remarks: Little attention has been paid to this tree though it occurs on farms. With development of management techniques, its status would improve. The timber is said to resist termites and damp conditions. The root yields a yellow dye. The wood is fairly attractive and is suitable for furniture and cabinet work. Plant as a pure stand or intercropped with coffee, banana and cocoa.

