**Myrianthus holstii**  
*Moraceae*

**Indigenous**

**Common names:** English: Giant yellow mulberry  
Kwamba: Kibanda, kibende  
Luganda: Mugunga, musinyanuro  
Rukiga: Echuvu, mufe  
Runyankore: Kiruhura  
Rutoro: Mwebende.

**Ecology:**  
A rain-forest tree of East Africa south to Mozambique. In Uganda, it grows in lowland and mountain forests preferring moist valleys and river banks. Two forms occur: the lowland form has larger leaves and fruits and the mountain form smaller ones.

**Uses:**  
Firewood, charcoal, food (fruit), mulch, soil and water conservation (control of flooding).

**Description:**  
A medium-sized tree to 10 m with a short bole and large branches, often carried on stilt roots to 60 cm. BARK: grey-brown, much watery sap. LEAVES: distinctive large palmate with 5-7 leaflets, largest central 20-30 cm, outer leaflets smaller, edge saw-toothed, upper leaf smooth dark green, lower side grey-green hairy with conspicuous veins, leaves are stalked. FLOWERS: sexes on separate trees, male greenish flowers on stalked heads, female in small round yellow heads on a short stalk. FRUIT: round, 4 cm across, hard and yellow when ripe, sections like a pineapple. Seeds surrounded with acid edible pulp.

**Propagation**  
Seedlings, wildings.

**Seed:**  
Crush compound fruit and separate seeds, store in a dry cool place.

**Management:**  
Coppicing and pollarding.

**Remarks:**  
Large leaves rot below the tree making mulch, thus the tree is good for soil conservation. Recommended for planting in valley bottoms to control silting of rivers.
Myrianthus hoistii

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