

Indigenous

**Common names:** **Lugishu:** Maruss, kiberassia **Rukiga:** Mujeje, ekijeje **Rukonjo:** Mukikembo, mundrindi **Runyarwanda:** Mugezi **Sebei:** Segatetit.

**Ecology:** A tree of mountain forests from Saudi Arabia to Zaire and throughout East Africa to the mountains around Lake Malawi. In Uganda it grows in montane woodland associated with *Faurea saligna*, *Agauria salicifolia* and *Nuxia floribunda* at altitudes of 2-2,500 m.

**Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, timber (local carpentry), medicine (leaves).

**Description:** A deciduous shrub, usually 3-10 m but can be a tree to 20 m with a diameter up to 1 m, the trunk often branched from the base. **BARK:** grey and smooth when young, later rough and dark. Young twigs glandular and hairy. **LEAVES:** oval and stalked, **4-14 cm, dotted with golden glands on both surfaces**, more below, giving a **spicy aromatic smell when crushed**, tip blunt, base somewhat rounded, 8-20 pairs of fine side veins, the edge wavy with a few well-spaced teeth. **FLOWERS:** male and female separate. Male **flowers yellow on yellow stalks to 3.5 cm, fragrant and dotted with oil glands**. Female anthers shorter. **FRUIT:** on a **spike to 4 cm, each fruit round** and very small, **purple with white waxy dots all over**.

**Propagation:** Seedlings, wildings, cuttings.

**Seed:** Contained in warty, round fruit. Collected with the coat.

**treatment:** Soak the seeds in cold water for 24 hours.

**storage:** Can be stored in a dry cool place.

**Management:** Plant closely to encourage straight growth; pruning, coppicing, pollarding.

**Remarks:** The wood is soft and light.

