

Indigenous

Common names: **Rukiga:** Mumuli **Runyankore:** Muboroboro Sebei: Chorowa.

Ecology: A variable tree with several forms extending to South Africa from the coast to medium altitudes in evergreen forest, rocky gorges and in dry rocky areas. In Uganda, it grows in upland woodland, margins and relicts of upland rain forest.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, medicine (leaves, bark), bee forage, live fence.

Description: A deciduous shrub or tree to 20 m tall. The bole is often short, **twisted and the low branches droop down**. Older trunks often bumpy and fluted and younger trees multi-stemmed. **BARK:** rough, brownish grey, shedding long **fibrous strips** with age. Young **branchlets** clearly **3- or 6-sided** with thick nodes where the leaves grow out. **LEAVES:** rather leathery, **dull green**, scaly, usually growing out **in threes**, crowded at the ends of branches, variable in size, shape and texture, hairy or not, oval to rounded, 1-8 cm, **tip rounded or notched**, edge occasionally toothed, a stalk to 2 cm, midrib clear. **FLOWERS:** fragrant **white-mauve in dense crowded heads**, flat or round-topped at the ends of branches, the 4 petals hardly longer than the **bell-shaped calyx**, which is sticky and attracting bees. The dry flowers persist on the tree. **FRUIT:** the **calyx continues** to surround **small hairy capsules** which split to set free many seeds.

Propagation: Wildings, seedlings.

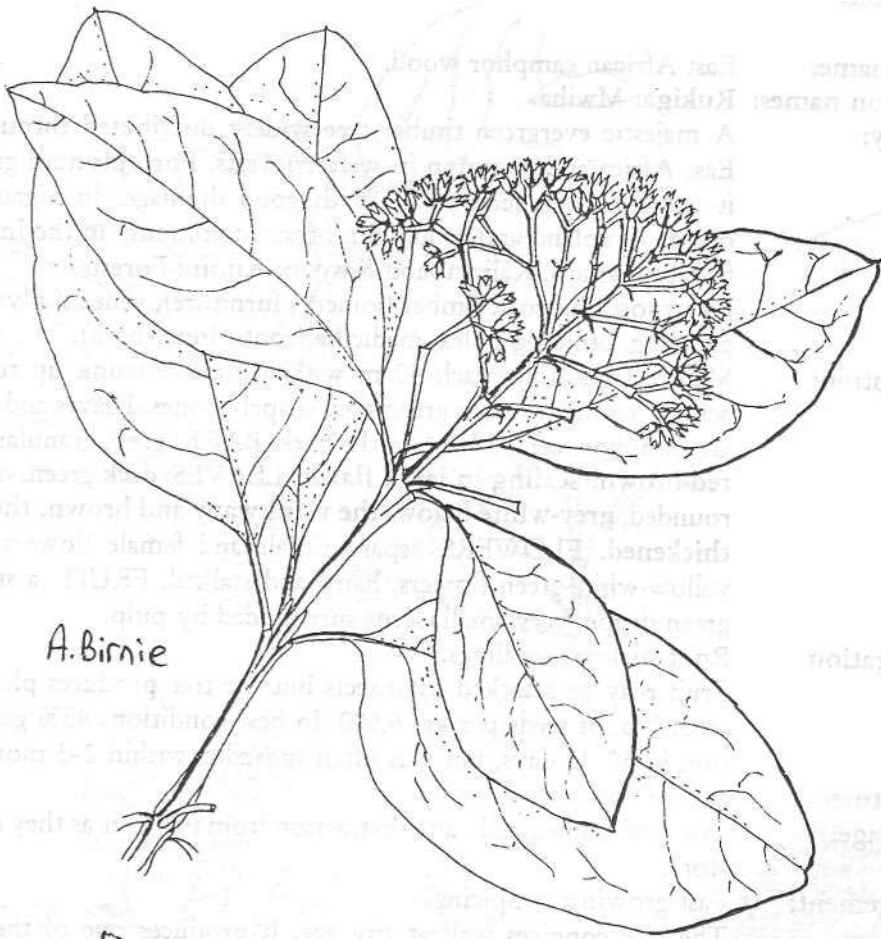
Seed: Collect mature capsules and thresh out seed,

treatment: not necessary.

storage: can be stored in a dry and cool place.

Management: Slow growing; coppicing, pollarding.

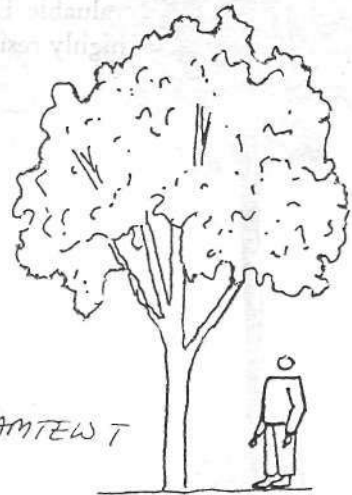
Remarks: A good bee tree. The species is being threatened by forest encroachment and expanded farmland. *Nuxia floribunda* is a very similar species both in appearance and other characteristics but has short pointed leaves which are always very hairy. Both species are good for fuel production and could be good for agroforestry. Bark is used to treat impotence and toothache.



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flowers
(enlarged)



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