

Indigenous

Common names: **Luganda:** Nkalate.

Ecology: A tree widespread in tropical Africa and typical of lowland rain forest where there is a high permanent watertable, in riverine forest or margins of lakes, etc. In Uganda it is widespread and abundant in forests on the shores of Lake Victoria.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber (construction), poles, food (fruit), shade, mulch.

Description: A much-branched tree 3-25 m, the bole often like a pillar and deeply fluted, slightly buttressed at the base, to a dense crown. Young shoots and leaf stalks with dense hairs. **BARK:** grey, rough, flaking into rectangular scales, exuding white latex. **LEAVES:** alternate, long oval, **wider at the tip, 9-20 cm long**, young leaves grey, hairy, narrowed to a 1-cm stalk. **A pair of 1-cm long hair-like stipules** persist at the base of the leaf stalk. **FLOWERS:** small and fragrant, **yellow-cream-green, in dense clusters** below leaves **on small cushions on bare branches**. **FRUIT:** **yellow-orange, long oval with a pointed tip and thick skin, 2.5 cm**, containing milky juice and white acid-sweet edible pulp. **The one seed is shiny brown with a large scar on one side.**

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings.

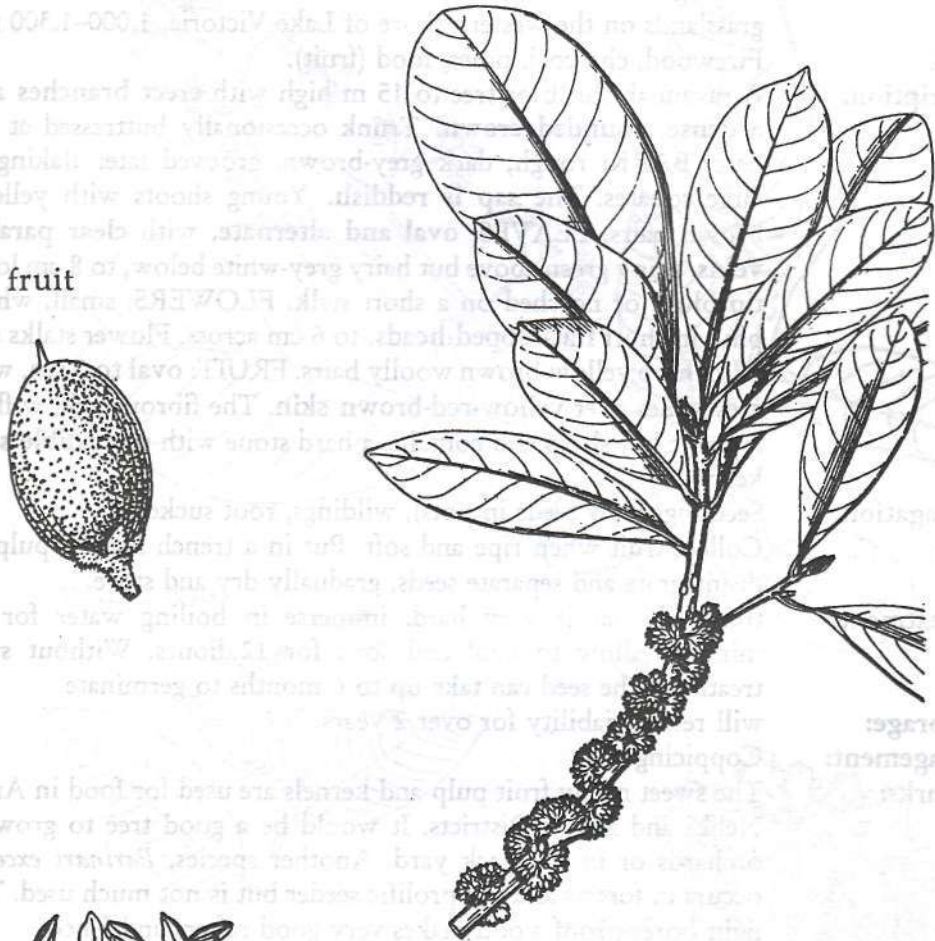
Seed: The ripe berries should be crushed and the seeds separated,

treatment: soak in cold water for 12 hours or scarify the seed,

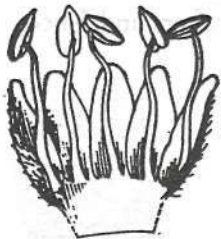
storage: store in sealed containers in a cool place.

Management: Coppicing, pollarding.

Remarks: Can be planted as single trees for fruit, avenue trees or for shade. The red-yellow heartwood is hard and durable and has been used to make pestles and mortars.



fruit



flower enlarged
opened out



young flower enlarged