

Indigenous

Common names: **Rukiga:** Mushinya.

Ecology: A shrub common at forest margins, sometimes riverine bushland and thicket from West to Central Africa and Angola. In Uganda it is a tree of forest understorey, thickets and forest edges. Abundant in the Impenetrable (Bwindi) Forest.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, fibres (bark for strings and buildings).

Description: An evergreen shrub or small tree 2-9 m. **BARK:** smooth grey-brown, sometimes with vertical lines; **fibrous**. **LEAVES:** alternate, blade long oval, about 11 cm long, narrowed to a very short stalk. **FLOWERS: white-yellow-green**, each stalked in a **terminal head with 8-12 flowers**, no petals but 4-5 sepals make a **tubular calyx**, the lobes and ovary hairy. **FRUIT: ovoid drupes about 1 cm long, pink-white to red**, hairy at the top, each containing one seed.

Propagation: Wildings, seedlings.

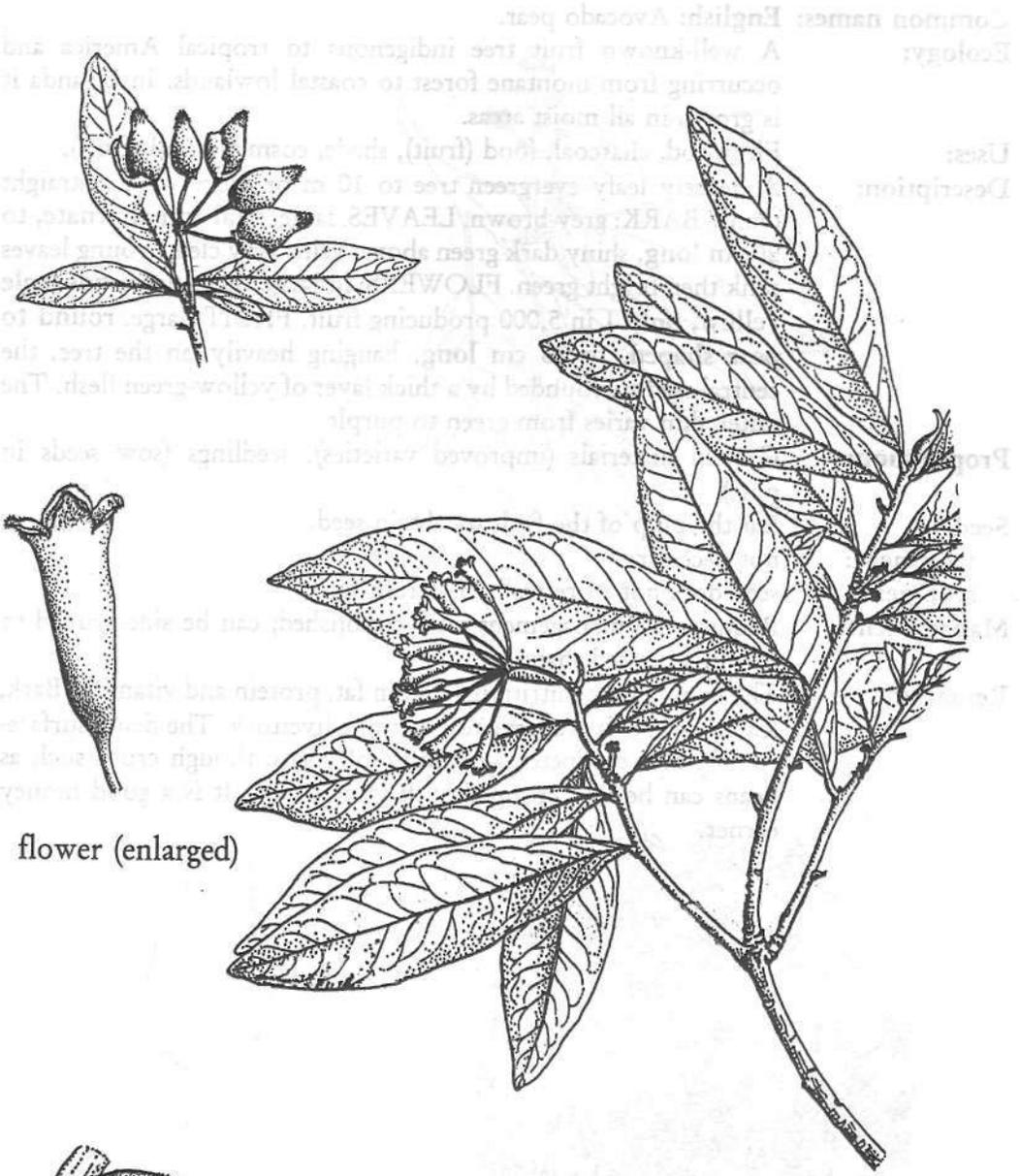
Seed: Normally the plants are shrubs and fruit are easy to reach and collect when they are ripe,

treatment: not necessary.

storage: store in sealed containers in a cool place.

Management: Slow growing. Coppicing, pollarding.

Remarks: The plant should mainly be grown for its strong fibres extracted from the bark. It could be grown as a plantation.



flower (enlarged)

fruit and seed (enlarged)