

Indigenous

**Common names:** **Luganda:** Luwoko **Runyoro:** Ruhoko **Rutoro:** Ruhoko.

**Ecology:** In secondary scrub, thickets, forest edges and disturbed areas in forests, 1,100-2,200 m.

**Uses:** Medicine (roots, fruit, leaves, seed), soil conservation, soap (fruit).

**Description:** A **climbing or scrambling** shrub which can be a strong liane in riverine forest; long hanging branches to 9 m. **LEAVES:** shiny oval to 25 cm, **tip blunt, stalk and midrib pink**, rather **thick and juicy**. **FLOWERS:** strongly scented, **cream-green**, on **spikes to 40 cm**, often opposite leaves, each flower with **many stamens** on a fleshy disc, 5 sepals but no petals. **FRUIT:** rounded **soft fruit to 7 mm** across, **orange-red** when ripe, a seed in each section.

**Propagation:** Seedlings, cuttings.

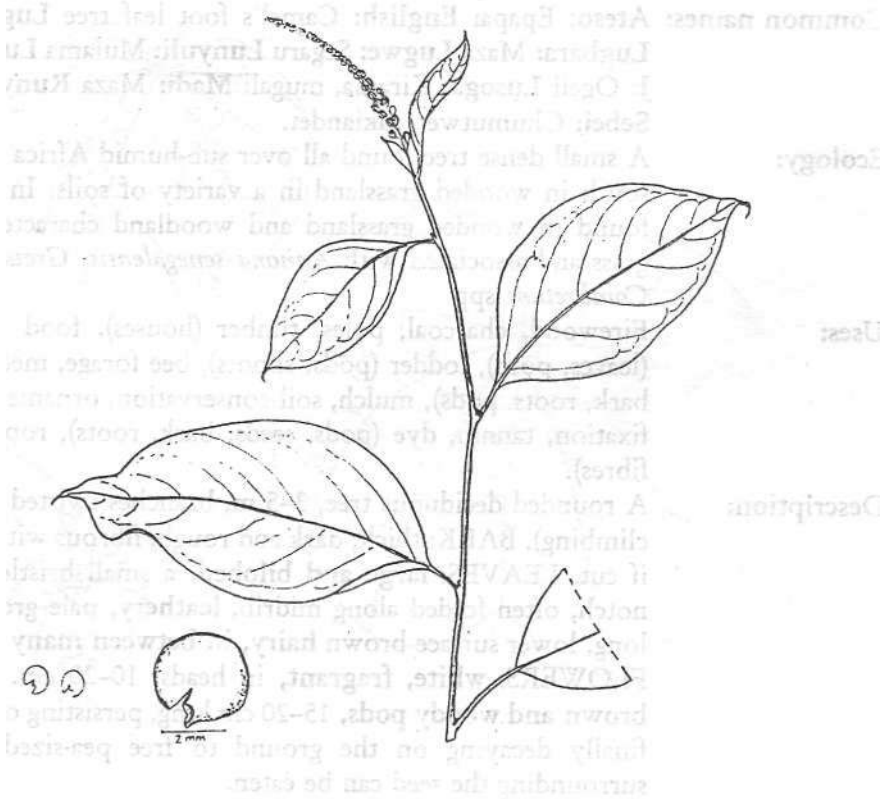
**Seed:** Seeds easily collected from dried fruit.

**treatment:** not necessary.

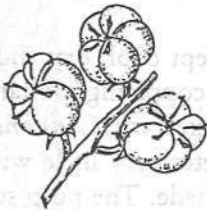
**storage:** can be stored.

**Management:** Fast growing. Trimming.

**Remarks:** This is a very poisonous plant, both to people and grazing animals. The leaves and roots are particularly poisonous. It should, therefore, be used with great care as an overdose of medicine can cause death. Sheep and cattle have died from eating the leaves during times of drought. Juice from the leaves or roots can cause abortion, and, suitably applied, can kill sperm. The commonest medicinal use is for killing intestinal worms. The juice can also be used to kill mosquito larvae in ponds, etc., and to kill snails and the bilharzia organism. The fruit are widely used as soap for washing clothes.



fruit and seed



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