

Indigenous

Trade names: Agboin, dahoma.

Common names: **Luganda:** Mpewere **Runyoro:** Mugeye.

Ecology: A tall tree of tropical lowland rain forest and riverine forest from Senegal, Sudan to Angola and Zaire. In Uganda it is a common and very characteristic species of the forests of the Lake Victoria belt, riparian in habit.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber (construction, dugout canoes), shade.

Description: A very large deciduous tree to 50 m, branching relatively low down to give feathery layered foliage. Trunk often leaning or wavy to a wide flat crown. There are **large thin buttresses** extending 3-5 m up the bole. They may **extend outwards like curved planks to 30 cm** high radiating out to 5 m along the forest floor. **BARK:** yellow-grey-brown, thin and smooth with ring marks and numerous very small lenticel dots. Bark on buttresses may have red-brown upper edges; when cut the slash is dry and pale yellow (resin in Newtonia). **Young branchlets densely brown hairy.** **LEAVES:** bipinnate with 10-19 pairs of pinnae which are **usually alternate** (not opposite as in Newtonia), very many tiny narrow leaflets to 8 mm long, slightly curved. No glands on leaf stalk (contrast Newtonia). **FLOWERS:** **yellow-white**, fading orange-brown, on **branched spikes each one 4-11 cm with a hairy brown stalk.** Each tiny flower has a cup-like calyx, 5 petals and 10 longer stamens. Flowering is irregular but dense masses of flowers appear on upper branches. **FRUIT: flat pods, dark brown, 17-36 cm long**, about 2.5 cm wide, split open on one side only to release seed while still on the tree. Seeds lie transversely in the pod (unlike Newtonia), each one flat and 5-9 cm long, brown and **oblong, surrounded by a membranous wing.**

Propagation: Wildings, seedlings.

Seed: On dehiscing, the winged seeds are blown away from the mother tree. Seed must be collected by searching throughout the forest until the required amount is collected,

treatment: not necessary. Fresh seeds germinate in one or two weeks,

storage: preferably plant as soon as collected and do not store for more than one month.

Management:

Remarks: The timber has been used in Kenya for cabinet work, sleepers and wagon building. The species has been successfully tried in plantations by the Uganda Forest Department. It is also suitable as a shade tree in banana, coffee and cocoa plantations. Many fine specimens can be seen in the Entebbe Botanic Gardens.

