

Indigenous

Common names: **Rukiga:** Mushekera, musibura **Runyankore:** Mubaruka.

Ecology: A tree of upland rain forest, forest edges, riverine areas and near rocky outcrops from Zaire, Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania. In Uganda it is found in upland forests and thickets. It also occurs in colonizing forests and at forest edges. Abundant in the Impenetrable (Bwindi) Forest and confined to this south-western corner of Uganda.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, medicine (bark, roots), soil conservation.

Description: A shrub or tree 3-12 m, the bole to 15 cm diameter, young branches with stiff hairs. **LEAVES:** alternate (not crowded at branch ends), narrow oval, upper blade often wider, long pointed but blunt, base narrowed to a 1 cm stalk, leaf to 13 cm long, dull green above, paler below, vein network conspicuous. **FLOWERS:** yellow-green-white, sweet smelling like jasmine, very small in loose or dense **terminal heads, to 15 cm long.** Tiny sepals triangular and joined at the base, 5 petals much longer and bent backwards. **Flower stalks with rusty brown hairs.** **FRUIT: capsules split open into 2 sections** shiny inside to 1 cm across, thin, containing more than 4 seeds.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings.

Seed: Sticky seeds remain attached to the capsule walls. Branches have to be bent and capsules collected together with the seed. Seeds are then shaken off as required,

treatment: not necessary.

storage: store in sealed containers in a cool place and sow within one month.

Management: Coppicing, pollarding.

Remarks: The species has not yet been cultivated, but could be used in plantations for firewood and to control soil erosion.

