

Indigenous

Common names: **English:** Parasol tree **Luganda:** Setala **Lugishu:** Gafuti, gufuti, gufuri Rukiga: Mungu, murungi, webina **Rukonjo:** Kyango, kyongo, kyungo, mukungu **Runyankore:** Mungu **Rutoro:** Mujuganlara **Sebei:** Lamadi.

**Ecology:** A tall forest tree widely distributed in wetter highland forests into the bamboo zone and growing as far south as South Africa. In Uganda it grows in woodland and semi-humid and humid highland forests with Syzygium, Cordia, Olea, Apodytes and Aningeria. Abundant in colonizing and riverine forest. Absent from Bunyoro it is widespread elsewhere in Uganda. It requires light and may be abundant at forest edges.

**Uses:** Firewood, timber (boxes, crates), carving (utensils, musical instruments), beehives, mulch.

**Description:** A **deciduous** tree to 25 m with a straight **slender bole** to about 9 m before the development of **whorls of branches**, like spokes of an umbrella, supporting a flat-topped crown. **BARK:** grey, smooth, leaf scars prominent, flaking on older trees. **LEAVES:** compound, pinnate, **to 1 m with 9-13 pairs of leaflets** plus one at the tip, each leaflet oval and leathery, 9-20 cm, **base rounded**, covered with **cream-yellow hairs below**. **FLOWERS:** green-yellow, honey scented, **very small in loose much-branched heads to 60 cm**, main stalks with red-brown scales. **FRUIT:** each fruit is **small, black, oval**, often ribbed, closely clustered on the branches.

**Propagation:** Seedlings, wildings.

**Seed:** Seed can be collected from the ground. Another method is to collect fruit **immediately** they turn purple-black by climbing the tree. Let seed mature in the shade 1-2 days then extract by soaking in cold water for 4-6 hours, squeeze out and separate by floating in water, then dry in the shade. No. of seeds per kg: about 310,000. Germination 75% in 35-45 days,

**treatment:** soaking in cold water may hasten germination,

**storage:** seed can be stored for up to two years.

**Management:** Fast growing.

**Remarks:** The very light soft pale-coloured wood is tough and strong and good for food containers as it has no smell. It has been used to make drums and even shingles, but it is mainly used for beehives, especially in Ruwenzori where one Konjo family may have up to 100 hives. The leaf fall makes good mulch. The tree is also suitable for intercropping with banana, coffee or cocoa.

