

Indigenous

Common names: Ateso: Ekiki **Lugbara:** Liso **Luo A:** Kijing **Madi:** Zingili.

Ecology: Only one Prosopis is found in tropical Africa, but several South American species have been introduced. *P. africana* grows in wooded grasslands from Senegal across to the Sudan. In Uganda, it is found in tall grassland as scattered trees or growing with other species in wooded grassland and woodlands. The tree is very drought resistant when established.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber (cabinets, railway sleepers, turnery), tool handles, tools, boat building, shade, ornamental, tannin, dye.

Description: A savannah tree to 12 m high with slight rounded buttresses. **BARK:** grey, rough, scaly or fissured. **LEAVES:** bipinnate on a stalk 5-15 cm which may be hairy. **2-4 pairs of pinnae with several glands on the stalk between the leaf pairs; 6-12 pairs of leaflets, each narrow oval 1.5-3.0 cm, the tip pointed.** **FLOWERS:** cream-white-yellow-green, fragrant, on dense axillary spikes to 7 cm long, the spikes on a stalk 1-3 cm. The tiny flowers with 5 petals have longer stamens. **FRUIT: thick pods 10-20 cm, woody brown-black and shiny, rounded.** Inside lie about 10 shiny brown-black seeds embedded transversely in **dry creamy pulp, membranes between.** The seeds rattle in ripe pods and are only released when the pod rots on the ground.

Propagation: Direct sowing on site, seedlings. Seedlings produce a long taproot so pruning in the pots is necessary.

Seed: The hard pod must be crushed to get the seeds out.

treatment: Place in boiling water for 15 minutes, allow to cool and soak overnight.

storage: store in sealed containers if seeds are extracted, but it is better to store the whole pod.

Management: Fast growing; coppicing, pruning, pollarding.

Remarks: Can be grown as a plantation tree, but should be pruned while young to get a clean bole. It is also suitable as an avenue tree and for shade in homesteads in dry areas. An important species in North Western, Northern and North Eastern Regions. It contains 14-16% of tannin and a colouring matter which gives a reddish tint to leather. The wood is very durable and is resistant to borers and termites. It yields a very high-quality charcoal.

