

Indigenous

- Common names:** **Ateso:** Eputon **Luganda:** Bunuli **Lugbara:** Mala **Luo A:** Oput, ofuti **Luo L:** Aputu, eputi **Madi:** Ala.
- Ecology:** A savannah timber tree from Senegal to Ethiopia. In Uganda, it grows in wooded savannah grassland and woodland in north-western, northern and north-eastern parts of Luwero District.
- Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, timber (joinery), utensils (mortars, etc.), poles, shade, ornamental.
- Description:** A tree 6-20 m with branches arising near the base and steeply ascending to an oblong or pyramid-shaped crown, bole usually straight up to 2 m in girth. **BARK:** thin, silver-grey-black, fairly regularly fissured, when cut bright crimson. **LEAVES:** even pinnate to 30 cm, often in tufts at ends of branchlets, **young leaves red-brown and densely hairy;** 6-9 pairs of leaflets, each one long oval to 14 cm, tip blunt, **base unequal**, rounded, **edge round-toothed and very wavy**, softly hairy. **FLOWERS:** small, fragrant and white in hairy heads to 30 cm. **FRUIT:** **erect capsules**, grey-brown and smooth with 5 sections, 7-14 cm long, breaking open from the tip but **remaining connected by fibres**, 5 seeds in each section hang out, each with long wings to 6 cm.
- Propagation:** Direct sowing on site, seedlings.
- Seed:** Seeds are winged and are blown long distances. Search on the ground for individual seeds. No. of seed per kg: about 4,400.
- treatment:** Immerse in boiling water, allow to cool and soak overnight,
- storage:** store in sealed containers in a cool place and sow within 2 months for good germination. Seeds are easily attacked by insects. Add ash to reduce insect damage if seeds are to be stored.
- Management:** Coppicing, pollarding.
- Remarks:** An easy-to-grow species for the semi-arid savannahs. The timber is attractive, resembling mahogany but harder and heavier, and is suitable for high-class joinery. Mortars are made from the trunks. Can be grown in pure stands, for shade, as an avenue tree or interplanted with mangoes, *Cassia* spp. and cashew nut. During the dry season, fallen seed are commonly exposed to bush fires. As there is profuse regeneration in the following rainy season, it is suggested that the fire actually improves germination.

