

Indigenous

Common names: **English:** Mubende witch tree **Kwamba:** Mwiha, mwira **Lugbara:** Butri **Rukiga:** Mwifa **Runyoro:** Mukoko **Runyoro, dialect Mubende:** Ndawula **Rutoro:** Mukoko.

Ecology: An emergent or canopy tree of tropical rain forest, chiefly found in riparian forests and at forest edges. In Uganda it is abundant in parts of Kibale Forest and Maramagambo and occasional in Mubende in Central Region but rare elsewhere.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber, carving (beer canoes), shade, ornamental.

Description: A forest tree to 50 m with a clear bole wide and straight. Large branches high up form a rounded crown, relatively small, buttresses medium to large. **BARK:** grey-brown, thin or thick, fairly smooth with horizontal marks, prominent lenticels and shallow vertical fissures. **LEAVES:** large, to 30 cm x 18 cm across, sometimes 3-lobed on a stalk to 9 cm, lobes generally rounded, tip drawn out but blunt, the base heart-shaped. Young leaves densely hairy; hairs remain in nerve axils underneath. **FLOWERS:** few, on stalks to 10 cm long from the uppermost axils of the branches, no petals but 5 sepals thick brown, about 1 cm, very hairy, anthers in whorls. **FRUIT:** woody and fibrous, almost round 10-15 cm across, containing many large winged seeds. Each seed oblong with a pithy wing about 7 cm long.

Propagation: Seedlings (sow seeds in pots), wildings.

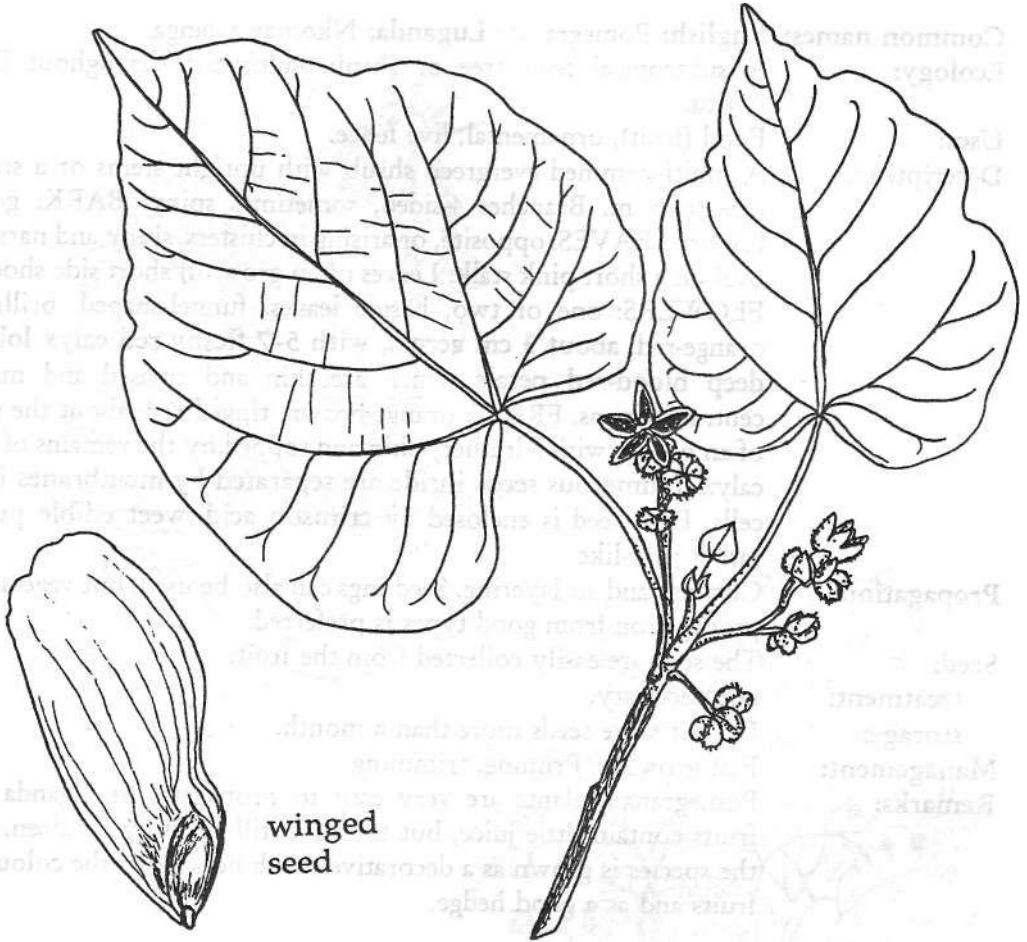
Seed: Easy to collect from the ground in forests after the fruits have split open.

treatment: not necessary; germinates readily.

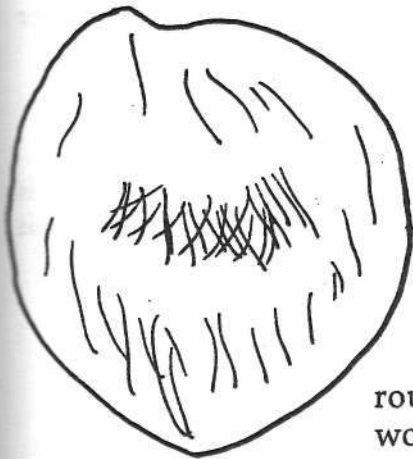
storage: seeds easily attacked by insects. Add ash to reduce insect damage. Store in sealed containers in a cool place.

Management: Fast growing. Coppicing, pollarding.

Remarks: It is a sacred tree in Mubende District. Could be planted among other trees, as an avenue tree or as a pure stand for production of firewood.



winged seed



rounded woody fruit

