

# Rauvolfia vomitoria

*Apocynaceae*

Indigenous

**Common names:** Lusoga: Kawule.

**Ecology:** Occurs in secondary forest or scrub and on forest edges. Abundant in thickets near Lake Victoria. It is common in Mengo and also Budongo.

**Uses:** Firewood, medicine (root bark, fruit), shade (for coffee and cocoa), ornamental.

**Description:** A shrub or small untidy tree to 10 m. **BARK:** thin, dark brown or grey-black, when young exuding white latex if cut. Branchlets slender and 4-sided. **LEAVES:** in characteristic **whorls of 3-4 on the thin branches and well spaced**. Leaves shiny green, about 13 cm long on stalks to 2 cm. **FLOWERS:** in branched heads **beside leaves, about 7 cm long, the tiny tubular flowers distinctly stalked white-pale yellow**, hairy at the mouth. **FRUIT:** 1 or 2 together on the branched head, oval, ripening yellow then **red**, about **8 mm across and containing one large seed**.

**Propagation:** Direct sowing on site, wildings and seedlings.

**Seed:** Fruits are produced in great numbers. They can be collected when they are ripe either from the mother tree or from the ground and then dried.

**treatment:** not necessary.

**storage:** sow seeds soon after collection.

**Management:** Fast growing. Coppicing, pollarding.

**Remarks:** The roots and fruits are used to control hypertension. It is useful for shade in coffee and cocoa plantations. Sowing directly in degraded areas is recommended.

