

Indigenous

Common names: **Ateso:** Elipilepo **Kwamba:** Musasa, muluku, musanvuma **Luganda:** Musasa, musanvuma **Lugbara:** Eniu, alokwe **Lugishu:** Musasia **Lugwe:** Muchasa **Lunyuli:** Mujasa **Luo J:** Bilere **Luo L:** Musaja **Lusoga:** Mujasajaba **Rukiga:** Mushasha **Runyankore:** Musasa, musanvuma **Rutoro:** Musasa, musanvuma **Sebei:** Mujustet.

Ecology: A tree of secondary scrub, fringing forest and forest edges extending from Ethiopia to South Africa. It grows throughout Uganda in savanna, thickets and along streams. It is widespread and often abundant in open forest, larger gaps and at forest edges as it is light demanding.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, farm tools, tool handles, medicine (leaves and roots), ornamental.

Description: A small- to medium-sized deciduous tree occasionally reaching 20 m. The trunk may be crooked, drooping branches arise low down giving a spreading crown. **BARK:** light brown to almost black, rough, **branches tending to droop**. White latex only seen when young parts are cut. **LEAVES:** long, oval, dark above, paler below, turning dark red before falling, to 14 cm long, tip pointed, **edge irregularly toothed**, midrib and veins raised below, about 10 pairs side veins; base narrow or rounded to a 1-2 cm stalk. **FLOWERS:** no petals or sepals. Flowers **catkin-like in spikes** 5-10 cm long, the upper part with tiny male flowers each with yellow stamens; 2-5 rounded female flowers at the base, larger, on longer stalks. **FRUIT:** **2-part red capsules about 1 cm** across, topped with remains of style. The capsule finally opens to set free seeds. Seeds often eaten by insect larvae.

Propagation: Wildings, direct sowing at site.

Seed: Collected in capsules which are cracked to extract seed.

treatment: not necessary.

storage: store in sealed containers in a cool place.

Management: Coppicing, pollarding.

Remarks: Leaves and roots are used to treat mumps. In Central Region the trunk is cut and shaped into an anvil for barkcloth making. It has become scarce in some areas because of incursion of its habitat.

