

Indigenous

Common names: **Lugishu:** Mubondwe, chichipeno **Sebei:** Kwelet, kwalet.

Ecology: A tree of wet or dry upland forests of East Africa extending to Ethiopia, sometimes into the bamboo zone. In Uganda, it is found in lower montane forest associated with *Hagenia* and *Afrocrania volkensii*. It is common on Mt. Elgon and also in the mountains of Karamoja.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, medicine (resin), shade, ornamental (avenue tree).

Description: A tree which may be an **epiphyte on other trees at first and often a liane**. It becomes a tall tree 6-25 m, the trunk often twisty, very irregular, the crown eventually large, rounded and spreading. **LEAVES:** compound digitate with 4-7 leaflets each 5-15 cm long the long leaf stalk to 13 cm, each leaflet **smooth bright green, shiny and waxy** above, tip obtuse, often bent under, usually narrowed to stalks of about 1 cm. Green stalks with prominent lenticels as small brown streaks. **FLOWERS:** tiny, **yellow-green** on stalks to 25 cm, 1 cm branches bearing **stalkless flowers 12-20 together in little star-like heads**. **FRUIT:** rounded to 5 mm across, lightly ribbed, light green then **red when** ripe, topped by the remains of 5 styles.



Propagation: Cuttings, wildings, seedlings.

Seed: Ripe fruit should be collected from the ground and gradually dried.

treatment: not necessary.

storage: store in sealed containers in a cool place.

Management: Requires support to grow straight.

Remarks: The tapped resin is used as a medicine for whooping cough. Individual trees can be intercropped with coffee or banana or planted for shade and as avenue trees; also in pots for house decoration.

