

Indigenous

Common names: **Ateso:** Ejikai, ejikaiskoi, ekajikai, eko **Lugishu:** Kisoromosi **Luo** A: Otitimo, luguotu **Luo** L: Jakayit **Lusoga:** Kamunyemunye **Madi:** Lanyumu **Sebei:** Katetalam.

Ecology: An African fruit tree occurring at medium to low altitudes from Ethiopia south to Natal scattered in mixed deciduous woodland and wooded grassland. In Uganda it is restricted to the Sudano-Guinea savannah in the north-west of the country from West Nile to Mbale, up to 1,600 m.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber (general purpose), utensils (stools, grain mortars, beehives), carving, food (fruit, fat from seeds), drink (fruit), bee forage, fodder (leaves, fruit), medicine (bark, roots, leaves), fibre (bark), .

Description: A deciduous tree 10-18 m with a thick bole and large branches to a light, rounded crown. **BARK:** grey then **black and thick with irregular cracks and raised scales; inner bark pink-red.** **LEAVES:** compound, crowded at tips of branches, **3-18 pairs leaflets plus a central leaflet, each stalked, oval to 10 cm**, tip pointed. **FLOWERS:** male and female flowers on the same or different trees: pale green male flowers in spikes, hang down and attract insects; **female flowers solitary, green-pink.** **FRUIT:** **rounded and fleshy to 3.5 cm across, skin cream, spotted**, peeling away from the **sweet flesh** which tastes a bit like mango; **2-3 large seeds inside**, oily and edible.

Propagation: Seedlings, cuttings, truncheons (large woody cuttings, 2 x 10 cm).

Seed: No. of seeds per kg: 400-450. Germination is 40% after 6 weeks, soak in cold water for 24 hours.

treatment:

storage:

can retain viability for up to 3 months at room temperature.

Management: Coppicing. Young trees coppice easily.

Remarks: Young trees are susceptible to fire damage. The fruit are rich in vitamin C and are well liked by children. Eaten by the Karamojong, Iteso, Langi and Acholi. The fruit are also eaten by a variety of game. The bark yields a strong fibre.

Sclerocarya birrea subsp. *caffra* (S. *caffra*)

Anacardiaceae

