

*Senna didymobotrya* (*Cassia didymobotrya*)      *Caesalpinaceae*

Indigenous

**Common names:** **English:** Candle bush, peanut-butter cassia **Luganda:** Mukyula **Luganda, dialect Lusese:** Mmwenyi **Lugishu:** Mubenobeno, kebenobeno **Runyankore:** Mugabagaba **Sebei:** Senetwa.

**Ecology:** A small bush of forest edges, lowland scrub, woodlands, evergreen thickets, often riparian or in disturbed places in Uganda. It is also cultivated for medicinal purposes.

**Uses:** Firewood, medicine (leaves, stems, roots), mulch, soil conservation.

**Description:** An attractive bushy shrub 1-5 m, young stems quite hairy. **LEAVES:** compound on spreading stalks to 30 cm, without glands, characteristic **leafy stipules** at the base **over 2 cm long, heart-shaped and pointed**, 8-18 pairs of oval hairy leaflets to 6 cm long, each with a rounded apex bearing a **clear, stiff, hair-like tip**. Crushed leaflets have peculiar bitter smell. **FLOWERS:** on erect stalks to 30 cm, in dense clusters, conspicuous as thin shiny **brown** sepals overlap and cover the **rounded buds**. Below each bud is a leafy bract. Open flowers at the base of the head have **bright yellow petals over 2 cm long**, the stamens of 3 sizes with straight stalks. **FRUIT:** oblong, **dark-brown** pods, **to 12 cm** by 2 cm across, **flattened** with sections across holding the flat seeds. Pods break open when dry.

**Propagation:** Wildings, seedlings, direct sowing on site.

**Seed:** Contained in flat pods; collect and crush.

**treatment:** not necessary.

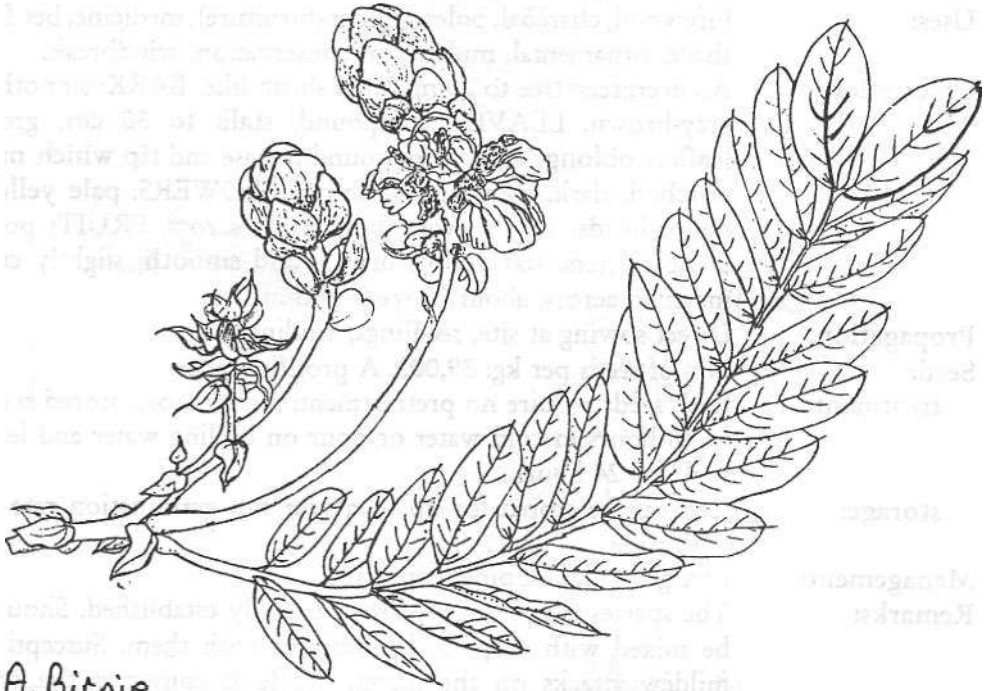
**storage:** store in sealed containers in a cool place.

**Management:**

**Remarks:** The leaves, pods and roots are poisonous, so care should be taken with dosage. The bark contains tannin. The leaves can be used as fish poison. Good to grow as a stand around the home.

Senna didymobotrya (Cassia didymobotrya)

Caesalpiaceae



A. Birnie

