

Indigenous

**Common names:** **Kwamba:** Kitokwe, kitomo **Lugwe:** Muhanga **Lusoga:** Musanda-sanda.

**Ecology:** A tree of mixed tropical rain forest. It is widespread in Uganda; common in the Lake Victoria forest belt and in Bundibugyo District. It grows in Kasyoha-Kitumi forest but not in Kigezi or Ankole.

**Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, shade (for coffee, banana, cocoa), ornamental (avenue tree), fibres (from bark for string and ropes).

**Description:** A tall deciduous forest tree with a long cylindrical bole, 9-30 m to a fairly small crown. Buttresses generally absent. **BARK:** quite thin, brown to grey-brown, moderately rough with small vertical and horizontal marks, flaking in small pieces. Branchlets thick, red-brown, very fibrous. **LEAVES:** **unlobed**, broadly oblong-oval, 9-18 **cm long, base rounded to heart-shaped** but lobes hardly overlap, **more than 3 veins from the base not extending more than half way along the leaf, 7-11 lateral veins**, tip protruding but rounded or shortly pointed, stalk to 7 cm, both surfaces slightly hairy at first (hairs star-shaped), older leaves just hairy below. **FLOWERS:** very small, **on long hairy branched stalks** beside upper leaves, each flower with a small hairy calyx **cup** (no petals), green **outside**, purple-red inside. **FRUIT:** woody, often in threes, **boat-shaped and beaked** 5-10 cm long, softly **hairy**, green then bright red when ripe (no aril), fading brown, opening to release black seeds to 2 cm long. Pale brown hairs line the inside of the fruit.

**Propagation:** Seedlings (sow seed in pots), wildings.

**Seed:** The woody fruit splits open slowly to expose seeds. The fruit fall to the ground from where seeds can be collected and gradually dried.

**treatment:** not necessary.

**storage:** susceptible to insect attack. Best to sow seeds immediately.

**Management:** Coppicing, pollarding.

**Remarks:** Plant as individual trees for shade and as an avenue.

