

Indigenous

- Common names:** **Lugishu:** Chiusa, luyusa, ruiunza **Rukiga:** Muhika **Runyankore:** Munyankono, munyakasikuro **Rutoro:** Mukoora.
- Ecology:** An understorey forest tree in the Sudan and East Africa. In Uganda, it is found in lower montane and medium-altitude forests preferring higher banks along water courses or wet areas. It is common in Bundibugyo, Kasese, Kabarole, Bushenyi, Mbarara and Ntungamo Districts as well as in the forests on the south-west slopes of Mt. Elgon. It is becoming dominant in Kalinzu forest.
- Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, timber (construction, furniture, interior works), utensils (mortars), shade (for coffee, banana and cocoa).
- Description:** An evergreen tree to 30 m with a clean bole to a dense short or long crown, not spreading but very shady. The trunk may be fluted and there are sometimes small buttresses. Branchlets drooping; lowest branches grow up vertically. **BARK: thin and smooth**, light brown or yellow-green, **flaking in small or large pieces (to 30 x 20 cm) giving a mosaic of several colours.** The inner bark may be red. **LEAVES:** alternate, leathery and large, up to 23 x 10 cm, often smaller, with **5-7 pairs of lateral veins, very prominent below, base broad to rounded with a grooved stalk to 2 cm long.** **FLOWERS:** in conspicuous and small yellow-green-white clusters on short side shoots, all parts in fives. **FRUIT:** long, stalked, a rounded to oval fleshy edible berry, 2-3 cm long, **black when ripe, a depression at the top has the old style in the middle.** A hard fibrous seed lies within.
- Propagation:** Wildings, seedlings (sow seed in pots).
- Seed:** Seed is contained inside the fleshy fruit. Collect the fruit as for *Maesopsis* and dry thoroughly.
- treatment:** the hard seed must be scarified or soaked in water for 24 hours,
- storage:** store seeds spread out in a cool dry place.
- Management:** Pruning, lopping, pollarding.
- Remarks:** Plant as a pure stand for timber or intercrop with banana, coffee and cocoa. Farmers are planting the species in Kanungu in the neighbourhood of the Impenetrable (Bwindi) forest. Mortars made of *Strombosia* have a reputation for being durable. The timber is hard, red and close-grained and takes a high polish. It is not durable in the ground.

