

Strychnos spinosa

Loganiaceae

Indigenous

Common names: **Ateso:** Etutukurut **English:** Kaffir orange **Lugishu:** Shiunwa **Luo**
L: Akwalakwala lyeche **Madi:** Lombo.

Ecology: A semi-evergreen shrub or tree found all over tropical Africa. It grows in a wide variety of dry woodland and thickets, frequently on sandy soils of river banks, to 1,500 m. Common in Northern and North Eastern regions of Uganda.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber (furniture, boxes), fodder (leaves), food (fruit), medicine (fruit, leaves, bark, roots), musical instruments (dry fruit shell).

Description: A semi-deciduous thorny tree, often multi-stemmed, 2-5 m, up to 9 m, crown rounded. **BARK:** grey-brown, rough, with **black-tipped thorns, short and hooked, in pairs**, along the branches. **LEAVES:** **opposite, oval to round, to 10 cm**, shiny green and leathery, edge wavy, 3-5 veins from the base. **FLOWERS:** small, cream-green-white, in bunches at the end of branches. **FRUIT:** **round and woody**, green then **yellow-brown** when ripe, to 12 **cm across**, conspicuous and hanging many months on the tree, 10-100 flat seeds lie in **juicy, rather acid but edible flesh**.

Propagation: Seedlings (sow seed in pots), root suckers, coppicing.

Seed: Seed has a hard coat,

treatment: hot-water treatment or light burning,

storage: can be stored.

Management: Root suckers can be encouraged by pruning the roots.

Remarks: Although the fruit is edible, seeds are toxic and unripe fruit may be also. The fruit are often eaten by wild animals. The wood is straight- grained and planes well but has not been much used for carpentry in Uganda.

