

Indigenous

Common names: **English:** Water-berry tree **Luganda:** Kanzironziro **Luganda, dialect Buddu:** Muziti **Lugbara:** Anigo, kuzu **Lugishu:** Chiemo, sizanzass, wandiviri **Lugwe:** Mutuli **Luo:** Kano **Rukiga:** Mufumba, mugote, mukondo **Runyankore:** Munyabarika, musimangwa **Sebei:** Lemaiyua, reberwo.

Ecology: A tree found beside fresh water and in swamps in East and Central Africa and south to Natal. Occurs in lowland forests as well as at medium to higher altitudes, always near water, along water courses, in riverine thickets and forests.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber (construction, furniture), beams, rafters, food (fruit), bee forage, medicine (leaves, bark, roots), dye (bark).

Description: A medium-sized evergreen tree 8-15 m high, sometimes a flowering shrub, the crown compact and rounded from a short thick trunk, sometimes buttressed. **BARK:** dark brown, rough and fissured, breaking into small squares; **branchlets square, edges winged.** **LEAVES:** very many near the ends or branches, **clasp ing the stem** in opposite pairs, the **next leaf pair at right angles, leathery**, blue-green, **oblong to circular to 8 cm, leaf base heart shaped** (*cordatum*). **FLOWERS:** dense, branched **clusters to 10 cm across, pink-white with conspicuous stamens**, abundant nectar. **FRUIT:** fleshy **oval to 1.5 cm long, purple** when ripe, edible but acid, 1 seed.

Propagation Seedlings (sow seed in pots), wildings, direct sowing at site.

Seed: No. of seeds per kg: 400-450. Germination is very good and uniform, 90% after 25 days.

treatment: not necessary.

storage: can retain viability only for a day. The seed should not be dried in the sun.

Management: Fairly fast growing, pollarding.

Remarks: The wood, which is not well known in Uganda, is medium hard and heavy and works well but should be water seasoned. Has been used almost exclusively for firewood and charcoal in Kabale and Kapchorwa Districts.

