

Indigenous

Common names: **Luganda:** Kitwekyankima **Rukiga:** Ekinyamagosi **Runyoro:** Mwongogwenkende **Rutoro:** Mwongogwenkende.

Ecology: An understorey forest tree, rarely in thickets and gallery forests. Common in Bugoma, Kibale and Mabira forests as well as in the Lake Victoria zone and in other medium altitude and lower mountain forests. Also found in Kigezi and the Ruwenzori Mountains up to 2,200 m.

Uses: Firewood (pollarded branches), charcoal, latex (lime for bird traps), shade, ornamental (avenue tree).

Description: A very leafy shrub or tree 4-10 m high with a wavy trunk and a dense crown of dark green leaves. **BARK:** thin, **fairly smooth, grey-brown** with large pale lenticel dots, darker and fissured with age, copious white latex if cut. **LEAVES:** **broadly oval, without a stalk, 11-32 cm long, stiff**, with 9-21 lateral veins each side, tip pointed but blunt. **FLOWERS:** **white** and fragrant in long loose heads, corolla tube twisted **to 3 cm long and the petal lobes 3-4 cm**, yellow in the throat and very hairy. **FRUIT:** **pairs of rounded fruit, green with white dots, about 10 cm across.**

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Propagation: Cuttings, wildings, seedlings.

Seed: Berries are picked from the ground under the mother trees, crushed and the seeds separated.

treatment: soaking in cold water for 24 hours will hasten germination.

storage: better sown as soon as collected.

Management: Pollarding.

Remarks: The heavy dark foliage casts a very dense shade round the year and nothing will grow underneath it. The heavy branching makes it a useful tree for pollarding for firewood, although the branches take a long time to dry. The wood is soft and white, brown in the centre, and easy to work.

