

Teclea nobilis

Rutaceae

Indigenous

Common names: **Ateso:** Ejoroi, ekude **Kwamba:** Mubio **Luganda:** Nzo **Lugishu:** Lutati **Lugwe:** Mudati **Lugwere:** Nakamole **Lunyuli:** Mugangwe **Luo A:** Achacha, opodeko, atachogat **Luo J:** Oya **Luo L:** Achacho **Lusoga:** Luzu **Rukiga:** Muzo **Runyankore:** Muzo **Runyoro:** Muzo **Rutoro:** Muzo **Sebei:** Gurio.

Ecology: One of the largest trees in this genus, widely distributed in wet highland forests—often found with Podocarpus and Juniperus—but also in bushland and savannah extending from Ethiopia to South Africa. In Uganda it grows in colonizing forests, thickets, forest edges and mixed forest from lowland to lower montane areas.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, poles, timber (tool handles, clubs, walking sticks), medicine (leaves, roots).

Description: An evergreen shrub or tree 2-12 m or taller in rain forest with a crooked trunk and dark, spreading crown. **BARK:** smooth, grey, with ring marks. **LEAVES:** compound, **3 leaflets** on stalks to 6 cm, leaflets **dark shiny green**, 5-15 cm long, **tapering to the tip, edge wavy**, midrib stands out below, leaf stalks and branchlets **without hairs**. **FLOWERS:** very small, **cream-yellow, fragrant**, in loose sprays to 12 cm. **FRUIT:** **orange-red and smooth** becoming wrinkled, very many on a branched stalk to 20 cm, each ovoid, pointed, 5-6 mm, containing one seed.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings.

Seed: Not a prolific seeder. Low germination rate. No. of seeds per kg: about 20,000.

treatment: not necessary.

storage: store dried fruits in a cool dry place.

Management: Moderate to slow growing. Coppicing, pollarding.

Remarks: The wood is tough and pale and due to high demand the tree has been overexploited throughout the country. Can be grown in stands for timber and fuel. The wood is used for making barkcloth mallets and is valued for its strength and durability.

