

Indigenous

**Common names:** **Ateso T:** Epiyei **Kwamba:** Museta **Lugbara:** Alobogo **Luo A:** Kilere **Madi:** Malere **Rukonjo:** Musongi **Runyoro:** Museta **Rutoro:** Museta.

**Ecology:** This is one of the very useful trees of semi-arid areas in Zaire, Kenya, Nigeria, Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia. It is found in deciduous woodland, bushland, wooded grassland and riverine vegetation, 730-2,000 m. In Uganda, it grows in semi-arid woodland and wooded grassland, preferring stony, sloping ground on hills and mountains associated with *Combretum* spp. and *Terminalia glaucescens*.

**Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, timber (tool handles, mortars, pestles), poles, posts, medicine (leaves and bark), fodder (leafy branches), mulch, shade, dye.

**Description:** A semi-deciduous tree, 7-13 m, densely shady, somewhat layered, foliage drooping. **BARK:** grey, fissured, young shoots hairy. **LEAVES:** oval, 7-10 cm, wider at the tip, pointed or notched, edge wavy, side veins clear, **leaf stalk and underleaf hairy**, leaves turn red before falling. **FLOWERS:** whitish, unpleasant smell, in spikes to 12 cm. **FRUIT:** a winged oval seed, red to purple, 5 cm, tip rounded or notched, narrowed to base.

**Propagation:** Seedlings, wildings.

**Seed:** A prolific seeder, but a rather low germination rate. The tree seeds more or less continuously. No. of seeds per kg: about 3,000.

**treatment:** Remove wings.

**storage:** Seed can be stored for very long periods if insect free.

**Management:** Fairly fast growing on good sites; lopping, pollarding, coppicing.

**Remarks:** Terminalia timber is yellow-brown, medium hard, light and termite resistant and thus highly valued for house construction, poles, utensils and for building grain stores. In spite of its dense canopy, crops do well underneath. It has been planted as an ornamental in urban areas. This species has good potential for semi-arid areas because of its resistance to both termites and drought once established.

