

Indigenous

Common names: **Luganda:** Kyewamala.

Ecology: A common African shrub, extending to South Africa; locally common in dry rocky bushland, at forest margins and often near water. In Uganda, it is abundant on Mt. Elgon around homesteads. It is also cultivated for medicinal purposes.

Uses: Medicine (roots, leaves), live fence, soil conservation.

Description: An erect **semi-succulent, strongly aromatic bush** or small tree to 3 m, stems often knobably with leaf scars and densely hairy. The leaves have an unpleasant smell. **BARK:** light grey-brown, smooth but peeling with age. **LEAVES:** opposite and simple, wide ovate to 9 cm, **very soft due to dense, short green hairs both sides**, veins clear below, often sticky, the **edge coarsely round-toothed**, base rounded to a **stalk about 2 cm**. **FLOWERS:** **very tiny, mauve-pink-white**, quite attractive, in large dense, much-branched heads to 30 cm long. Flowers grow on spikes, male and female on different plants. **FRUIT:** a very small nutlet.

Propagation: Vegetatively by division of bushes or use of cuttings.

Seed:

treatment:

storage:

Management: Fast growing; pollarding and side trimming as a fence.

Remarks: This plant is effective in controlling soil erosion. The roots are used to treat conjunctivitis and the leaves to treat cough, meningitis, malaria, dyspepsia and psychosis.

