

Indigenous

Common names: **Luganda:** Sekoba.

Ecology: This species occurs in mid-altitude rain forest in West Africa and from Uganda to South Africa, 1,000-2,200 m. Absent from the central Guinea-Congolian rain forests, it is widely distributed in Uganda and common in Kibale forest.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber (construction, furniture), shade.

Description: A very large evergreen tree to 30 m, with a straight trunk dividing into large branches and a rounded crown. Buttresses absent or small. **BARK:** fairly thin and **smooth brown** with clear breathing pores (lenticels); when **cut the bark edges are red and white**. **LEAVES:** compound with 4-6 pairs leaflets plus one on a stalk, to 10 cm, each leaflet about 12 cm long, **always wider towards the pointed tip**, often rounded at the base. The **7-12 pairs veins below are widely spaced** with a few hairs. Leaves **dry dark brown**. **FLOWERS:** few in branched sprays to 6 cm, each large flower with 5 cream-white **hairy petals** over 2 cm long, the **10 hairy stamens joined in a ring** around the central style. **FRUIT:** a rounded capsule to 3 cm across, pink to dull yellow-brown and hairy, **without a neck to the fruit stalk**, splitting into sections when dry to set free **large black seeds** which are **almost covered by a soft red aril**.

Propagation: Seedlings (sow seed in pots), wildings.

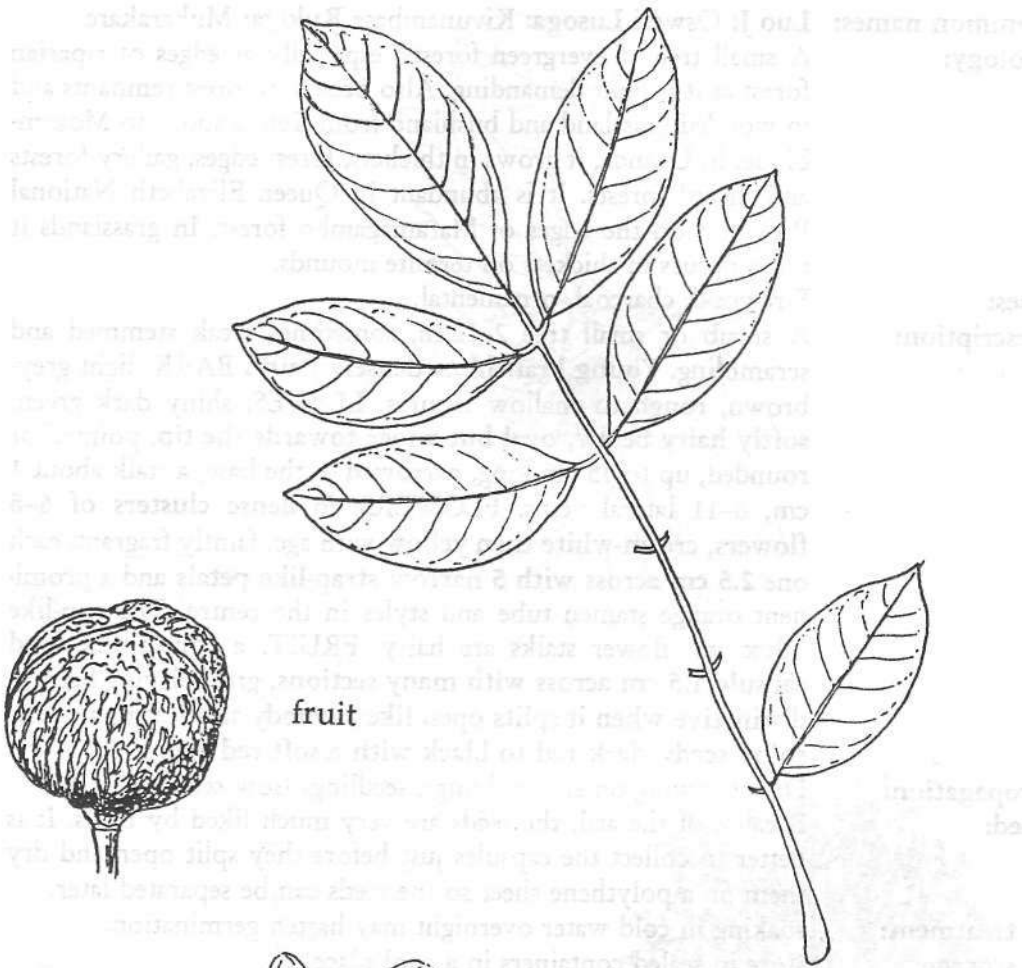
Seed: Contained in a capsule which splits open.

treatment: not necessary.

storage: sow immediately after collection.

Management: Coppicing, pollarding.

Remarks: The timber is susceptible to borer attack, but the pink wood is easily worked and polishes well. It has been used for carving. The timber is similar to mahogany.



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