

Indigenous

Common names: Lugishu: Shikomosi **Luo J:** Adezo.

Ecology: A common African wild fruit tree which grows in dry fringing forest, woodland, bushland and grassland with scattered trees throughout East Africa and also West, Central and Southern Africa, India and western Australia, 0-2,130 m..

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber (building), utensils, food (fruit), medicine (roots and bark).

Description: Usually multi-stemmed and deciduous, the tree may reach 15 m. **BARK:** pale to dark grey, fairly smooth or ridged. **LEAVES:** **large limp, glossy green, broadly oval to 20 cm**, usually smaller, opposite, the margin wavy, veins clear below; older leaves are almost hairless. **Leafy stipules on the young shoots.** **FLOWERS:** small, few in **hairy stalked heads, petals green-yellow.** **FRUIT:** rounded green to 5 cm across often in **bunches of 5-6 brown and edible when ripe containing a few hard seeds.** Each seed 1.5 cm long.

Propagation: Direct sowing at site, wildings, seedlings (sow seed in pots).

Seed: Seed can be obtained after eating the fruit and collecting the scattered seeds or where the fruits have fallen on the ground. After collection they are crushed and the seeds separated.

treatment: soaking in cold water overnight may hasten germination.

storage:

Management: Coppicing, pollarding.

Remarks: Cultivated for its fruit in tropical regions from Trinidad to Singapore. Trees are left when land is cleared for cultivation as the fruits have commercial value. The fruits are much liked by children in Uganda.

