

Indigenous

Common names: **Ateso:** Ewelo, ekarukei **English:** Black plum **Luganda:** Munyamazi **Lugbara:** Odogo **Lugwere:** Mukarukei **Lunyuli:** Mufudu **Luo A:** Oyelo **Luo J:** Yuelo **Luo L:** Owelo **Lusoga:** Mufudumbwa **Madi:** Ledo **Runyoro:** Muhomozi **Sebei:** Bulgelwa.

Ecology: A deciduous forest tree, widespread in East Africa, often in coastal woodlands but also in savannah and riverine woodlands, generally at lower altitudes. In Uganda, it is found in wooded grassland and woodland, sometimes being the largest tree in the community and associated with *Combretum* spp. and *Grewia mollis*.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, poles, timber (construction, furniture), food (fruit), medicine (bark, leaves, roots, fruit), fodder (leaves, fruit), bee forage, shade, dye (bark).

Description: A small or large tree, 8-14 m, with a **heavy rounded crown** and a clear bole. **BARK:** pale brown or grey white, with long fissures and scales. **LEAVES:** **opposite and compound, digitate (like fingers), leathery** and shiny, each leaflet stalked to 22 cm long, tip rounded or notched, lower leaflets smaller. **FLOWERS:** fragrant, in dense bunches on a long stalk, to 12 cm across, each flower **cream with one hairy violet lobe;** the calyx enlarging to a hairy cup around the fruit. **FRUIT:** **oblong to 3 cm**, green marked with white dots, **black** when ripe, edible starchy pulp around the hard nut with 1-4 seeds, dispersed by monkeys.

Propagation: Seedlings, direct sowing, wildings. Best sown in a seedbed since several seedlings will germinate from each nut and can be separated at pricking out.

Seed info.: No. of nuts per kg: 1,000-1,100.

treatment: remove fleshy part of the fruit and soak nut in cold water for 24 hours. Seeds take a long time to germinate.

storage: best sown fresh.

Management: Medium growth rate; coppicing, lopping.

Remarks: The species regenerates naturally from seed and root suckers. Forest fires may help break the seed coat before germination. The tree produces a teak-like, termite-resistant timber and edible fruits which can be sold. Monkeys may disperse the seed..

