

Indigenous

Common names: **Ateso:** Ekarukei **Kakwa:** Murukukwe **Lugbara:** Odoandri **Luo:** Oyelo gwok.

Ecology: A shrubby savannah tree distributed from West Africa to the Sudan and south to Mozambique in bushland, often with *Lophira*, *Butyrospermum* and in *Combretum* woodland. In Uganda it grows in wooded grassland and savannah associated with *Prosopis africana* and *Terminalia* spp.

Uses: Firewood, timber (stools), food (fruit).

Description: A woody herb or shrub to 1.5 m forming patches about 1 metre wide from a large underground rootstock or a savannah tree 4-7 m. The stems may be dark red-purple with dense red-brown hairs, even woolly when young but finally they are quite smooth. **LEAVES:** (not usually with 5 leaflets) **normally 3 or a single leaflet**, characteristically fragrant when crushed, arising 3 together, fairly stiff, drying yellow-green, variable in shape to 25 cm long and 1 cm wide, usually less, tip sharply pointed and edge with **shallow but large rounded teeth**, a clear vein network below which is usually densely hairy, longest leaf stalk about 3 cm, and **main leaf stalk 5-15 cm**. **FLOWERS:** scented in loose heads beside leaves on a stalk 4-12 cm, each tiny flower **pink-white with violet-blue lobes**. **Hairs outside flower, on calyx and flower stalks**. **FRUIT:** oblong-rounded, about **2.5 cm long**, 1-2 cm across, shiny green with white spots **ripening black, containing 3 seeds, calyx cup enlarged and toothed**, about 1 cm across.

Propagation: Direct sowing on site; wildings, seedlings.

Seed: Collect fruit when they are soft and ripe, dry in the sun and shake off the dry pulp.

treatment: not necessary.

storage: dried fruit can be stored in a dry cool place.

Management: Coppicing, pollarding.

Remarks: The species grows well only in North Western, Northern, North Eastern and Eastern Regions. The fruits are delicious and very much liked. These trees can be intercropped with oranges and mangoes and they can even grow in Eucalyptus plantations. The bark is used medicinally in West Africa.

