

Indigenous

Common names: **Luganda:** Musanvuma, munywamazzi **Luo:** Adhiang **Runyan-kore:** Entoma.

Ecology: A swamp-loving tree widely distributed in Uganda in valley bottoms, swamps and swamp forests. In Lake Victoria swamp forests the tree is associated with an understory layer of *Raphia* and *Tabernaemontana*.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, medicine (seeds), soil and water conservation.

Description: An evergreen shrub or tree 5-10 m, the trunk often crooked with a spreading open crown. **BARK:** thin, silvery to pale brown, smooth, becoming rougher and corky, abundant latex when young but none on cutting older trees. **LEAVES:** long oval, shiny, **wider at the tip which is blunt to rounded, crowded at the ends of branches**, opposite, **9-10 cm long**, narrowed to the base, 6-14 main lateral veins. **FLOWERS:** **yellow-white, waxy and very fragrant** in heads to 21 cm, flower tube about 2 cm with 5 lobes 2-3 cm, **all twisted in bud, overlapping to the left**, the 5 sepals half joined together and splitting as the bud opens. **FRUIT:** round, **in pairs, 4-7 cm across, green and spotted**, containing the seeds.

Propagation: Wildings or sow seeds in pots.

Seed: The fruit open on one side exposing the seed which are very much liked by monkeys. Collect the fruit immediately they open and remove the seed from the pulp. ^

treatment: not necessary, but soaking in cold water overnight may hasten germination.

storage: since the seeds tend to be sticky, they should be stored with a medium like sand.

Management: Coppicing, pollarding.

Remarks: Voacanga controls flooding and excessive water flows in swamps and rivers. In West Africa it is cultivated on a commercial scale and the seeds exported to Germany for pharmaceutical processing. An extract from the seeds is said to be effective in treating cardiac problems.

