

# Xylopia eminii (X. aethiopica)

*Annonaceae*

Indigenous

**Common names:** **Luganda, dialect Lusese:** Nsagalanyi, nsagalane.

**Ecology:** A species of lake-side forests extending south to Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa. In Uganda it may be locally common alongside *Piptadeniastrum* in forests along the shores of Lake Victoria in seasonally flooded areas, e.g. along Masaka-Bukakata road, around Dumu Port and around Lake Nabugabo.

**Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, poles.

**Description:** An evergreen forest tree to 30 m with a **thin, straight trunk**, horizontal branches and a much-branched crown, the bole sometimes buttressed. **BARK:** grey-brown, smooth or with fine shallow fissures, peeling easily. Branches red-brown-black. **LEAVES:** large and oval, **shiny blue-green above, thick and leathery, 8-16 cm long, paler and soft below with fine brown hairs**, tip suddenly pointed, base running into the stalk which is short, thick and purple-black. Older leaves may turn red. **FLOWERS:** **single or 2-5 on wavy spikes beside leaves, yellow-cream-green, very fragrant**, each flower stalk to 1 cm, 6 free petals, the 3 outer ones 3-5 cm. Buds conical and angular. **FRUIT:** in dense clusters of **7-24 finger-like cylindrical carpels**, each one like a pod, 2-6 cm, green-red outside but red and succulent inside, splitting when ripe to set free **1-8 seeds, red then black when ripe with a yellow papery aril**.

**Propagation:** Direct sowing on site; wildings, seedlings (sow seeds in pots).

**Seed:** Collect ripe fruits, spread on polythene sheeting and separate the seed when dry.

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

**storage:**

**Management:** Coppicing, pollarding.

**Remarks:** The stands of this species in the lake-shore forests have been decimated by charcoal burners. Could be planted as a pure stand or mixed with other trees, e.g. *Maesopsis eminii* and *Beilschmiedia ugandensis*.

