

Indigenous

Common names: Ateso: Esisalang **Ateso K:** Akalale **Lugbara:** Ela **Lugishu:** Shikalengwe **Lugwere:** Mukodolowa **Lunyuli:** Lunani **Lusoga:** Namukodolowa **Luo A:** Lango, olango **Luo J:** Ongonye **Madi:** Liria **Sebei:** Katagi.

Ecology: A common African tree of medium to low altitudes from Senegal to Ethiopia and into South Africa. It grows throughout East Africa and in Uganda occurs in dry savannah in Eastern, North Eastern and Northern Regions as well as in Luwero and Moyo Districts.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber (furniture, interior work, carving), poles, food (fruit pulp and seed), live fence, bee forage, dye (bark).

Description: A thorny semi-evergreen shrub or small tree usually 3-6 m, the trunk usually straight and single, the branches drooping down to form a rounded crown. **BARK:** grey-black, deeply grooved. Branchlets zig-zag, hairy, with **single or paired dark brown thorns to 2 cm long; in a pair one straight, one curved back ("thumb pointer")**. **LEAVES:** markedly alternate along the stems, oval, leathery, variable in length, 5-8 cm, **the leaf base unequal, shiny green above, hairy orange-yellow-grey below**, 3-5 clear veins, edge finely toothed, a short hairy stalk. **FLOWERS:** green-yellow, in small star-like heads, 1-2 cm, stalks 1 cm, beside leaves. They have an unpleasant sharp smell. **FRUIT:** rounded, 2-3 cm, smooth, ripening to shiny red-brown, 1-2 seeds inside the inner stone surrounded by sweet edible flesh.

Propagation: Seedlings (sow seeds in pots), direct sowing on site.

Seed: Collect fruits, remove pulp and dry.

treatment: crack the hard seed cover carefully or soak in cold water for 24 hours before sowing,

storage: can be stored.

Management: Pruning.

Remarks: The spiny branches make this plant useful as a protective live fence. Leaves and fruit are used elsewhere as fodder. The bark yields a cinnamon-coloured dye. The timber is heavy, hard and resistant to termites and borers.

