

Indigenous

Common names: **Luganda:** Mukuzanyana **Lugwe:** Muhehete **Lusoga:** Mukuza-dhyana, musandikira **Rutoro:** Mwatibale.

Ecology: A tree extending to southern Africa. It is found in evergreen lowland and upland forest in dry and moist areas of Eastern, Central and Western Uganda. Often a colonizer in secondary vegetation. Abundant in forests between Kyegegwa and Kyenjojo along the Kampala-Fort Portal road.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber, poles, flooring, shade (for coffee).

Description: An understorey or canopy tree 7-12 m, but to 25 m in forest. It has a **dense, shady, rounded crown** (like mango). **BARK:** thin, **grey to dark green**, rather smooth but with **horizontal ridges** and little rounded bumps. **LEAVES:** compound, only 1-3 pairs leaflets on a short stalk, dramatic **pink-red at first**, later **shiny dark green**, dull below. Each leaflet about 12 cm and quite wide, **smaller leaflets at the base**, the edge wavy and **tip long and pointed**. **FLOWERS:** small, fragrant and white on a drooping head 7-8 cm. Male trees and female trees. **FRUIT:** **bright yellow-orange-red capsules** decorate the tree, each soft, hairy, **rather triangular to 4 cm** long with 3 winged lobes. The fruit become woody and split into 3 sections each of which **twists back to set free 1 cm shiny brown-black seeds**. Each has a small **yellow cup-like aril**.

Propagation: Seedlings (sow seed in pots) and wildings.

Seed: Seeds are contained in a 3-sided capsule and germinate easily,

treatment: not necessary.

storage: in sealed containers in a cool place.

Management: Coppicing, pollarding.

Remarks: Leaves and fruit have been reported to be poisonous—not even eaten by baboons. The red heartwood has been used for building and furniture. Common as a shade tree in coffee plantations and suitable for commercial plantations.

