

Indigenous

Common names: **Kwamba:** Mukole **Luganda:** Mukole **Lugwe:** Mufudufu **Rukonjo:** Mukole **Runyoro:** Mukole.

Ecology: A widespread tree of moist lowland or colonizing forests in Uganda. Also common in Kenya and into Southern Africa. It can be part of the riverine vegetation, often on rocky sites or bushland and at the margins of dry or open forest. The tree grows in Budongo, Bugoma, Itwara, Kibale and Maramagambo Forests and in the forests near Lake Victoria, often in poor soils underlain by murrain.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber, building poles.

Description: A deciduous much-branched shrub usually 2-5 m but may become a tree 7-9 m, the trunk often fluted and crooked to an open spreading crown. **Handsome in flower.** **BARK:** smooth, pale grey-brown becoming dark red-brown, thick and rough with vertical fissures. When cut it is soft, fibrous and red-pink. **LEAVES: variable**, rarely 3-lobed 3-9 cm (smaller than *D. torrida*), the **upper surface with a few soft hairs**, tip sometimes long pointed but may also be blunt, edge irregular, toothed, base heart-shaped to a stalk 3-5. **FLOWERS: white**, beside leaves near tips of branches, **often abundant on the bare tree in many flowered heads to 10 cm long**, each flower 1.3 cm diameter with 5 one-sided petals and only **3 stigmas**. **Calyx and flower stalks hairy.** **FRUIT: only 5 mm, a round hairy capsule** hidden within the dry flower.

Propagation: Seedlings, direct sowing on site.

Seed: Collect while within capsule and thresh seeds out.

treatment: not necessary.

storage: store in sealed containers in a cool place.

Management: Fast growing; coppicing, pollarding.

Remarks: An easy tree to grow and deserves further investigation. It is often part of colonizing forest with other shrubs and tree saplings.

Dombeya kirkii (D. mukole)

StercuUaceae

