

# Newtonia buchananii

*Mimosaceae*

Indigenous

**Common names:** English: Newtonia **Luganda:** Mpewere **Rukiga:** Mukungu **Runyankore:** Mutole, mutoyo **Rutoro:** Muchenche.

**Ecology:** A large spreading tree of lowland and upland rain forest, riverine and swamp forest. It is widespread as far south as South Africa at altitudes of 600-2,000 m and in Uganda it is abundant in the Impenetrable (Bwindi) Forest.

**Uses:** Firewood, timber (canoes, sleepers), fodder (pods, leaves), shade, ornamental, mulch.

**Description:** A tall deciduous tree to 40 m with fine feathery leaves; rather flat topped. In forest valleys the tree can have a clear trunk. **BARK:** smooth, light grey, large trees with **strongly fluted buttresses**. **LEAVES:** bipinnate like Acacia, the leaflets very numerous, **tiny and light green when young**. The leaf stalk has tiny glands between the opposite pinnae. Branchlets with rust-brown hairs. **FLOWERS:** clusters of erect **cream spikes to 18 cm, fading brown**. **FRUIT:** thin **brown pods 15-30 cm, splitting open on one side** only to set free **distinctive red-brown seed to 7 cm with a wing all round**. Seeds lie longitudinally in the pod (unlike *Piptadeniastrum*).

**Propagation** Seedlings, root suckers.

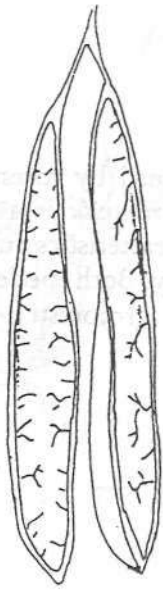
**Seed:** No. of seeds per kg: 9,000-13,000. Germination of fresh seed up to 90% in 20-30 days.

**treatment:** not necessary.

**storage:** can retain viability only for a few weeks- at room temperature. Collect from the tree crown immediately pods turn brown, sun dry and shake out the seeds.

**Management:** It is a fairly fast-growing tree once established, but needs care during the establishment phase.

**Remarks:** The brown-to-red-brown heartwood is durable in water and is used for canoes on Lake Victoria. The tree resembles *Piptadeniastrum africana*, but *Newtonia* bark exudes yellow-brown resin when cut. Also the pinnae are opposite and marked with a gland at the meeting point on the leaf stalk.



winged seed

