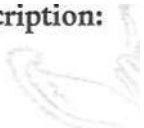


Indigenous

**Common names:** **Luganda, dialect Buddu:** Munamagulu **Luganda, dialect Lusese:** Mukusu **Luo A:** Acak, locaca **Madi:** Lao.

**Ecology:** A swamp forest tree from West Africa to Zaire and Zimbabwe. It is commonly found in mixed evergreen forest and riverine forest. In Uganda, it grows in swamp forests near Lake Victoria. It has also been recorded in South Maramagambo Forest. On Sese Islands, it grows on drained soils. Fossils of this plant dating back to 2000 BC have been found in the Fort Portal area.

**Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, timber (furniture), shade, soil and water conservation.

**Description:**  A much-branched evergreen tree to 18 m, supported on very prominent **stilt roots** which leave the bole up to 3-4 m above the ground; a dense rounded crown of large leaves. **BARK:** light brown-red-brown, scaly but generally smooth, vertical lines of lenticel dots, fissured with age. **LEAVES:** **bunched at the ends of branchlets, thin and stiff**, about 25 x 15 cm with 10-20 main lateral veins on each side, clear below, tip rounded, narrowed to a stalk about 5 cm. **FLOWERS:** male flower heads towards ends of branchlets, numerous **yellow-green flowers surrounded by golden-yellow bracts**, stalks about 1 cm, bracts 1 cm. **Female flowers** similar but with a **single flower** instead of the rounded head. **FRUIT:** **yellow, ovoid-round, about 2 cm diameter, 2-4** smooth green seeds inside.

**Propagation:** Seedlings (sow seed in pots), cuttings, wildings.

**Seed:** Collect the fruits when they are soft and ripe, mash and separate the seed. Dry gradually.

**treatment:** not necessary.

**storage:** does not store well, so use fresh seed.

**Management:** Coppicing, pollarding.

**Remarks:** This species regenerates naturally in the shade of other trees so initial shading of seedlings may be necessary. Uapaca grows well as a pure stand in swamps and as a shade tree on drained land so can play a role as a regulator of floods and water flow. The wood is pale red with a silver grain, durable, easy to work and suitable for carpentry, especially furniture. It could also be planted in coffee and cocoa plantations.

