

Indigenous

Common names: **Kwamba:** Bulera **Lugishu:** Komosovi, chiruku, kirongo, kisubi
Rukonjo: Mushebera, muschero **Runyankore:** Mushesebeya, mulera, murera, mutera.

Ecology: A tree widespread in tropical Africa from the Gambia to South Africa. It is found in lowland rain forest and wooded to upland grasslands. In Uganda it occurs mainly in the south-west of the country, e.g. Masaka, Ankole and Kigezi, above 1,200 m at forest edges and in the woodlands and montane grasslands below moist montane forests.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber, nitrogen fixation.

Description: **A tall spreading deciduous tree** 9-30 m, crown flattened. **BARK:** grey to yellow-brown, usually rough and scaly. **Young branchlets and flower stalks, etc., with dense orange-yellow hairs.** **LEAVES:** bipinnate, **5-8 pairs pinnae**, leaflets 7-17 mm long, the same size and narrowing upwards, **leaflets very one-sided at the base (but no extra small lobe at the base as in *A. gummifera*)**, veins clear below and quite hairy, the **tip blunt with a very short stiff point.** **FLOWERS:** rounded white heads, the **stamen tubes red-pink-green and hanging out of each flower.** **FRUIT:** mature pods flat, **dull yellow-brown, softly hairy** 9-19 cm long, up to 3 cm across; seeds flat and round, about 8 cm across.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings.

Seed: The pods split open and are carried some distance with the seeds still attached. This makes collection difficult. Seed are often damaged by insects.

treatment:

storage:

not more than 3 months. Add ash to reduce insect damage.

Management: Fairly slow growing.

Remarks: Plant on hilly ground and for intercropping with food crops. Can grow well if planted in the highland areas of Kapchorwa and Mbale Districts. The timber of this species has only recently come into use and its quality requires further testing.

