

Indigenous

**Common names:** **English:** Large-leaved albizia **Kwamba:** Bulera, idada, madada **Luganda:** Mulongo, nongo **Luo:** Awak, owak **Luo A:** Awok **Lusoga:** Mulongo, nongo **Rukiga:** Mushebeye **Runyoro:** Mulongo, murongo, nongo, **Rutoro:** Mulongo, nongo.

**Ecology:** A tree of Central and East Africa and the Sudan, found in upland rain forest, especially in gallery riverine forests. In Uganda it is a vigorous colonizer in woodlands, gallery and mixed forests and on forest edges. It prefers moist and wet sites.

**Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, timber (for furniture, joinery and construction), farm tools, medicine (roots), bee forage, ornamental, mulch, nitrogen fixation.

**Description:** A medium-sized deciduous tree with a straight trunk to 20 m and a **flattened** or layered crown. **BARK:** fairly **smooth, pale grey-brown**. **Young branchlets densely hairy**. **LEAVES:** bipinnate, on a stalk to 9 cm with only 2-3 pairs pinnae and 3-6 pairs leaflets, pink-red when young. The **smallest leaflets at the base, terminal leaflets largest** and reach 7 cm, rather curved and **tip pointed**. At the base of young leaves are rounded pink-green leafy stipules, to 2 cm long. **FLOWERS:** in colourful hemispherical heads, mostly pink with **dark red anthers seen well beyond the petals**. **FRUIT:** **flat, pale brown** pods, narrow, to 15 cm with a small pointed tip. Dense papery bunches can be seen on bare trees, 5-8 seeds are set free when the pods split open.

**Propagation:** Seedlings, wildings, and root suckers.

**Seed:** Collect in pods just before pods split open. Thresh pods and separate seeds. Seeds susceptible to attack by insects,

**treatment:** soak in water overnight.

**storage:** Store in sealed containers in a cool place. Add ash to reduce insect damage.

**Management:** Coppicing, pollarding. Fast growing on well-watered forest soils, produce many suckers from surface roots.

**Remarks:** A striking tree when in flower. The pale wood, although easily worked, is not very durable and is attacked by insects. In other properties it is similar to *A. gummifera*. The name *grandibracteata* refers to the "large bracts", leafy growths at the base of young leaves.

