

Indigenous

Trade names: Antiaris, false iroko, false mvule, kirundo, upas tree.

Common names: **Ateso:** Eloa **Kwamba:** Kesuba, kisuba **Luganda:** Kirundu **Lugishu:** Lulundu **Lugwe:** Mulundulundu **Lunyuli:** Musende **Luo A:** Olivaa **Luo L:** Elwa **Madi:** Ripi **Runyankore:** Mumaka **Rutoro:** Muhere, mbondo.

Ecology: A forest tree with 3 varieties not clearly distinguished, especially when young. While one is found largely in wooded grassland, the others grow in rain forest, wetter forest, riverine and semi-swamp forests west to Sierra Leone, into southern Sudan and south to Zaire and Angola. It grows in all regions of Uganda except the North Eastern, 1,350-1,700 m.

Uses: Timber (veneer, beer canoes), medicine (leaves, roots), bark cloth.

Description: A magnificent deciduous tree of the forest canopy, often 20 m, up to 40 m, the crown rounded, branchlets drooping. A large tree may have a **tall clear bole** with some buttresses at the base. **BARK: smooth, pale grey**, marked with lenticel dots and ring marks. When cut **thin cream latex** drips out, becoming darker. **LEAVES:** variable, usually oval 5-16 cm x 4-11 cm, the upper half often widest to a blunt or pointed tip, **the base unequal and rounded**. Saplings and coppice shoots have long narrow leaves, **the edge toothed**—but rare in mature leaves. Leaves are **rough, papery with stiff hairs above** but softer below. **FLOWERS:** small male flowers, **yellow-green**, in clusters about 1.5 cm across, growing just below leaves. Female flowers in **disc- or kidney-shaped heads** to 3 cm across. **FRUIT: bright red, dull and furry, 1.5 cm long**, the swollen receptacle contains just **one seed**. The soft fruit is liked by birds, bats, monkeys and antelope and therefore dispersed by them.

Propagation: Wildings and seedlings (sow seeds in pots).

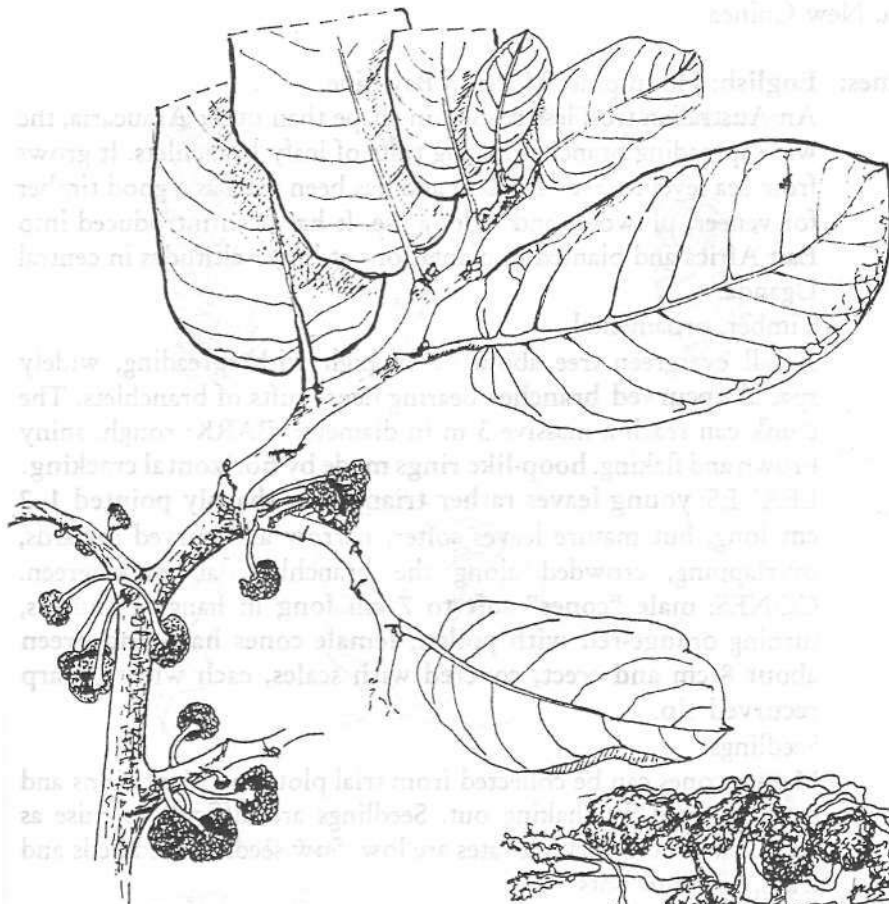
Seed: Large amounts of seed; easy to collect from the ground,

treatment: none.

storage: loses viability quickly, sow as soon as collected.

Management: Fast growing attaining full size within 20 years.

Remarks: The root or leaves are used to treat mental illnesses. In Kitgum District the bark is used for making bark cloth but it is not as good quality as that made from Ficus. The trunk is used to make "beer canoes" in Central Region. The tree does not compete with crops. Plant individual trees for shade, as avenue trees or as a pure stand. There is little difference between heart and sapwood; it is yellow-white and soft, easily attacked by termites and borers. It can make a tough veneer for the plywood industry.



male flower head enlarged



female flower enlarged

