

Indigenous

Common names: **Lugishu:** Gishombe, shigishombe **Rukiga:** Mukaka **Rutoro:** Muhungura **Sebei:** Sigirwo.

Ecology: A small tree common from east to southern Africa, occurring along banks in wooded river valleys, at the edges of evergreen forest and also in open woodlands. A highland and lower montane species in Uganda, 2,000-2,400 m.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber, carving, utensils (stools, water pots), beehives, medicine, shade, ornamental.

Description: A handsome, well-foliaged tree, 7-15 m high in forest. **BARK:** light-brown, smooth at first becoming rough with old age. **LEAVES:** compound with **5-10 pairs of opposite leaflets plus one** and a **winged leaf stalk**, very clear in young leaves, leaflets to 10 cm. **FLOWERS:** grow from **thick upright spikes to 35 cm**, like candles, and hairy, opening to **green-cream flowers**, buds, slightly pink, up to 2 cm across. **FRUIT:** **thick woody capsules, rounded to 2.5 cm** across, golden hairs at first, open into 3-5 sections, each with a **bright orange seed, 1 cm, half covered by a waxy yellow aril.**

Propagation: Seedlings, root suckers, wildings.

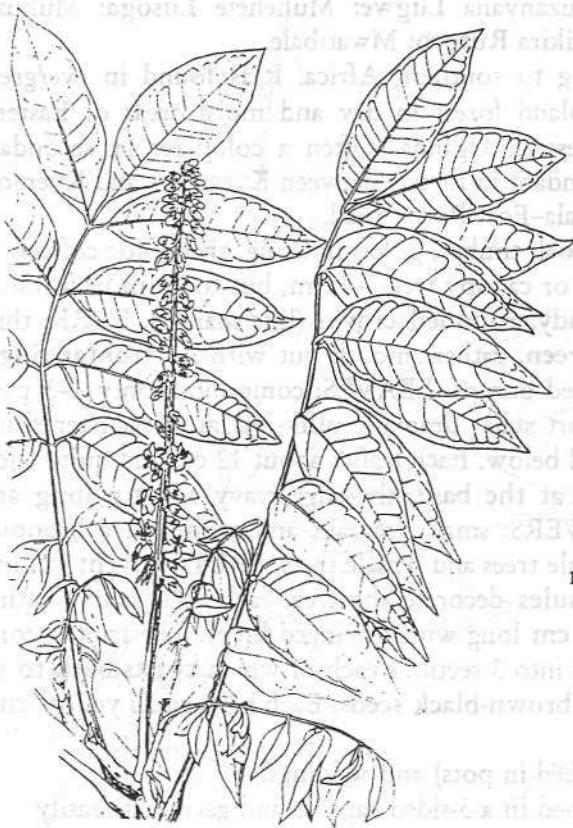
Seed: No. of seeds per kg: 1,100-1,300. Germination may reach 70% but is sporadic, 5-10 weeks.

treatment: the seed coat is thin but the aril has to be removed. Sensitive to freezing.

storage: can retain viability for two months at room temperature.

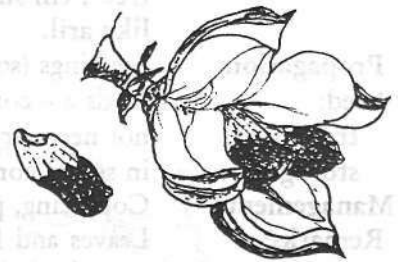
Management: A fast-growing tree; coppicing, lopping, pollarding.

Remarks: Very common in highlands and can be planted in farmlands with different crops. **Caution:** It is poisonous to domestic animals.



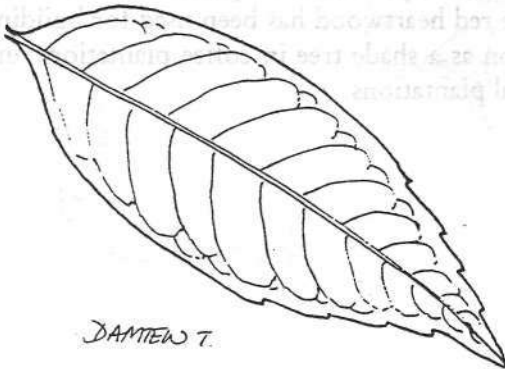
mature fruit head

A.B.

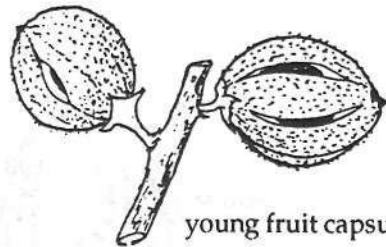


seed

open woody capsules



DANTEW T.



young fruit capsules