

Indigenous

**Common names:** **Ateso:** Engosorot **English:** Red-hot-poker tree, lucky-bean tree, Uganda coral **Kwamba:** Kikiri **Luganda:** Muyirikiti **Lugbara:** Oluo, olugo **Lugishu:** Cheroguru, muragolo **Lugwe:** Mutembe-tembe **Lunyuli:** Mudongodongo, mukobe **Luo A:** Lochoro, kisoro, oding, loting **Luo J:** Koli **Luo L:** Ewilakot **Madi:** Olawu **Rukiga:** Bwiko **Runyankore:** Muko, kiko **Runyoro:** Mudoti, muko, kiko **Rutoro:** Muko, kiko **Sebei:** Kaborte.

**Ecology:** Found in savannah woodland, grassland and scrub. Occurs in all Districts in Uganda.

**Uses:** Firewood, carving (utensils, mortars, drums, bee-hives), medicine (bark, roots), bee forage, shade, mulch, soil conservation, nitrogen fixation, ornamental, live fence, necklaces (seeds), curios (seeds), ceremonial, veterinary medicine (leaves), floats for fish nets (cork from the bark), wheels (trunk).

**Description:** A deciduous tree with a short trunk and thick spreading branches, rounded crown, 6-12 m. **BARK:** deeply grooved, brown, thick and corky, with or without woody spines. **LEAVES:** compound with 3- leaflets, **largest leaflet rounded to 15 cm;** branchlets and underleaves covered with **grey-brown hairs, veins and stalks sometimes prickly.** **FLOWERS:** orange-red heads, often appearing on the bare tree. Both narrow calyx lobes and petals are coloured, each flower to 5 cm long. **FRUIT:** woody pods, 4-16 cm long, hairy, strongly narrowed between seeds, opening to set free 1-10 **shiny red seeds** with a grey-black patch.

**Propagation:** Seedlings, cuttings, wildings. Propagation from cuttings is successful if done immediately after the rainy season.

**Seed:** Low germination rate. No. of seeds per kg: about 6,800.

**treatment:** not necessary.

**storage:** seed stores for long periods if kept cool, dry and insect free. Add ash to reduce insect damage.

**Management:** Pollarding, coppicing. Slow growing from seeds, faster from cuttings.

**Remarks:** The tree is resistant to fire and termites as the young trees establish a deep root system before stem growth. The soft white wood is a poor timber but can be carved fairly easily. The seeds contain a poison but it is only released if they are crushed. Leaves have been used to treat skin diseases in cattle.

