

Indigenous

Trade name: Mukebu.

Common names: **English:** Large-leaved cordia **Kwamba:** Mutumba **Luganda:** Mukebu **Lugishu:** Chichikiri, chikichikiri **Lunyuli:** Hinghobe **Luo J:** Akoiyi **Rukiga:** Mujugangoma **Rukonjo:** Mutumba **Runyankore:** Muzugangoma **Runyoro:** Mujugangoma **Rutoro:** Mutumba **Sebei:** Mugengere.

Ecology: An African tree found in a variety of habitats from East to Southern Africa. In Uganda it grows in moist forests, especially forest edges, riverine gallery forest, wooded grassland in Elgon, Ankole and Kigezi, 1,200-2,000 m. It tolerates a variety of soils and may be a colonizer or occur in thickets. It is commonly used for drums, beehives and furniture.

Uses: Firewood, timber (furniture, shingles, beehives, boxes, mortars), utensils, medicine (bark, roots), fodder (leaves in dry season), bee forage, shade (coffee), mulch, soil conservation, boundary marker.

Description: A much-branched deciduous tree with rounded crown and often crooked trunk, 4-15 m. **BARK:** pale brown, finely grooved, rough with age. **LEAVES:** large, **oval to 16 cm, base rounded**, veins prominent below, young shoots, leaf stalks, underside of leaves **covered with soft brown hairs**, the upper surface may be slightly sandpapery. **FLOWERS:** showy, **funnel shaped, 2.5 cm across, thin white petals**, sweetly-scented and attractive to bees; the calyx cup hairy brown and **strongly ribbed**. **FRUIT:** **yellow-orange, 1 cm in hairy calyx cups**. Sticky edible pulp, each fruit containing 4-6 seeds.

Propagation: Wildings, seedlings. Collect ripe yellow or brown fruit from crown of tree or immediately after they fall to the ground. Depulp at once by rubbing over wire mesh under flowing water. Add sand to help them separate by floating in water. Dry seed in the sun. If whole fruit are planted in seedbeds, several seedlings germinate and they should be separated while pricking out.

Seed: Average no. of seeds per kg: 18,000. Germination rate 50-80% in 40-60 days.

treatment: no treatment or soak in cold water for 6 hours,

storage: properly dried seed stores well up to one year.

Management: Fairly fast growing; pollarding, lopping, coppicing. Requires 4-6 months in a nursery before planting out.

Remarks: The yellow-brown heartwood is hard and takes a good polish so the timber is prized for furniture but it can be twisted and difficult to saw. The tree is often found in cropland where it is managed to reduce shade. The species is never as big as *C. millenii*. The leaves make very good mulch.

