

Dodonaea angustifolia (D. viscosa)

Sapindaceae

Indigenous

Common names: **English:** Sand olive **Rukiga:** Musambya **Runyankore:** Mushambya, omusambya **Sebei:** Tombolokwa.

Ecology: The natural range of this tree is very wide—Australia, India, tropical and subtropical Africa—as it does well in a wide range of climates and soils. In Uganda, it is found in montane woodland and grassland associated with *Faurea saligna*, *Agauria salicifolia* and *Philippia benguelensis*. Common around the Impenetrable (Bwindi) Forest in Kabale District and on Mt. Elgon; rather rare in other areas.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, poles, tool handles, medicine (leaves, roots), bee forage, soil conservation, windbreak, live fence, toothbrushes (twigs).

Description: A thin-stemmed tree, usually 3-8 m, with a light crown. **BARK:** grey, grooved, peeling. Branchlets red and sticky. **LEAVES:** thin, **narrow, stiffly erect to 10 cni, tapering** to a stalk, **young leaves light green, shiny and sticky.** **FLOWERS:** male and female separate, insignificant. **FRUIT:** distinctive capsules, 2 cm with **three papery wings, sometimes inflated, greenish to red,** looking like blossoms, turning light brown, small seeds inside.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings, direct sowing at site.

Seed: No. of seeds per kg: about 100,000. Germination rate 30-70% after 15 days.

treatment: not necessary.

storage: seed can be stored for up to a year.

Management: Fast growing; little or no management required once established.

Remarks: The species is not browsed which makes it easy to establish. A good live fence for dry areas; susceptible to fire but regenerates rapidly after burning. It is especially useful for reclaiming poor land—from marshes to dry areas. The wood is heavy. Has been recommended for planting for firewood in the highlands of Kabale where it could also be useful in stabilizing soil-conservation structures.

