

Indigenous

**Common names:** **Luganda:** Muyovu **Rukiga:** Mushalya, muyove **Rukonjo:** Kikula **Runyankore:** Muyovu **Rutoro:** Muyovu, muhungura.

**Ecology:** A rain-forest tree found in Zaire, Malawi and Tanzania. In Uganda it is a tree of medium-altitude and lower montane rain forest but an exception is its presence in the Sango Bay area of Lake Victoria. It also grows in Mityana and Nakiga Forests of West Mengo and is frequent in south-west Uganda, Kigezi, Kalinzu, Itwara and on Mt. Elgon, 1,280-2,150 m.

**Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, timber, veneer, ornamental (avenues).

**Description:** A deciduous forest tree about 40 m high with a **clear bole about 24 m** to a large crown. **Buttresses strongly developed extend 4-5 m up the trunk** (larger than other *Entandrophragma* species). **BARK:** thick, **grey and smooth when young** becoming brown with pale pink-orange patches, scaling in flat pieces on older trees (as in *E. angolense* but remaining scars quite shallow). **LEAVES:** pinnate on stalks to 60 cm or more with about 14 **large leaflets, almost opposite, each one oblong, 18 x 8 cm, the tip rounded but with a short point often twisted backwards;** 8-12 lateral veins and a **clear vein network on both surfaces which are dull green.** **FLOWERS:** tiny, white in stiff heads about 30 cm long and 10 cm across. **FRUIT:** cylindrical woody capsules, **dark brown-black, 12-20 cm pointed,** breaking open into 5 parts, **starting from the base but falling altogether.** Winged seeds about 7 cm long.

**Propagation:** Seedlings, wildings.

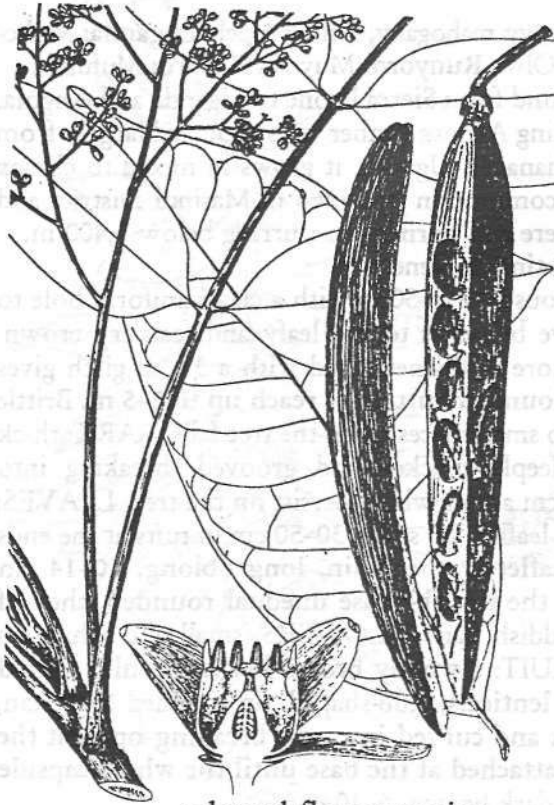
**Seed:** The winged seeds get blown several metres away from the mother tree. Thus collection is difficult and each seed has to be picked up individually from the ground.

**treatment:** soaking in cold water for 12 hours will hasten germination,

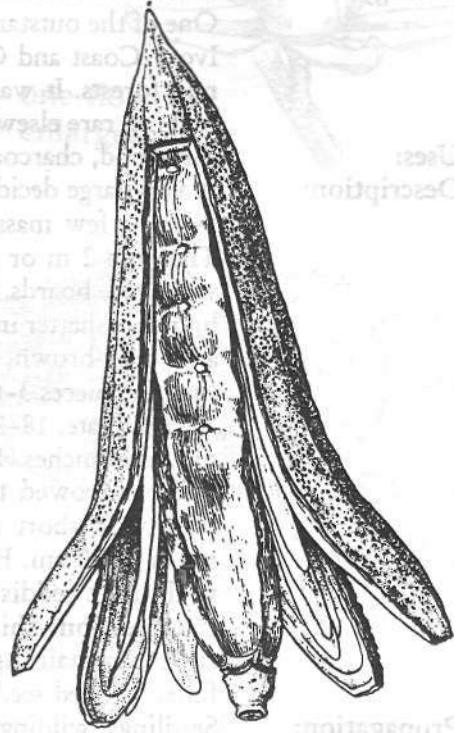
**storage:** seeds are very susceptible to insect attack. Store in a sealed container in a cool place but before doing so discard those showing signs of having been attacked. Also add ash to reduce insect damage. Sow within two months.

**Management:** Initial tending is needed and, if planted in the open, shading is required until established.

**Remarks:** Except for Sango Bay, this is a highland species. For this reason, planting should be restricted to highland areas of Bushenyi, Kabale, Kabarole, Rukungiri, Mbale and Arua Districts. Plant widely spaced as a pure stand, avenue or ornamental tree. It can also be planted in banana, coffee, cocoa and tea plantations. Despite considerable quantities of the tree in south-west Uganda, the timber is little used as it tends to warp and twist badly if used unseasoned.



enlarged flower section



fruit capsule

