

Indigenous

Trade names: Bastard wild rubber

Common names: **English:** Bush rubber, False rubber **Luganda:** Nkago **Lusoga:** Nkago **Rukiga:** Munyamagosi **Runyankore:** Munyumatuga, nyamukago **Runyoro:** Musanda.

Ecology: The false rubber tree is widespread throughout much of tropical Africa in both evergreen and semi-deciduous forest. In Uganda it is commonly found in the middle storey of rain forests and is common in the Lake Victoria forest zone.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal (poor quality), timber (for fascia boards, furniture).

Description: An evergreen tree usually 8-25 m, the trunk cylindrical (only slightly buttressed in large trees) to a **tall, narrow but dense crown**, the leaves crowded on short dark branchlets. **BARK:** smooth and thin, brown-black, granular when older, fine vertical fissures. A **thin chalk-white latex exudes when cut which remains sticky on the fingers**. **LEAVES:** opposite, **leathery dark green above, broadly oval, usually 18-20 cm long**, edge wavy, tip slightly pointed, a stalk about 1 cm. Below 8-14 pairs lateral veins with a few hairs at the angles with the midrib (no pits). **FLOWERS:** **yellow-white, fragrant and fleshy**, about 1.5 cm across, the tube thick, mouth narrow, the **petal lobes longer than the tube and overlapping to the right**. **FRUIT:** a pair of **grey-brown, woody flat follicles, sharp-tipped, usually 9-15 cm long, boat-shaped, standing out at right angles from a common stalk**. The fruits split along the upper side setting free very many seeds, each with a tuft of 5 cm long silky hairs at one end aiding wind dispersal.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings.

Seed: Fruit may be collected at maturity and left to split open gradually in a cool place. If they split on the tree, the seeds are blown away, not necessary.

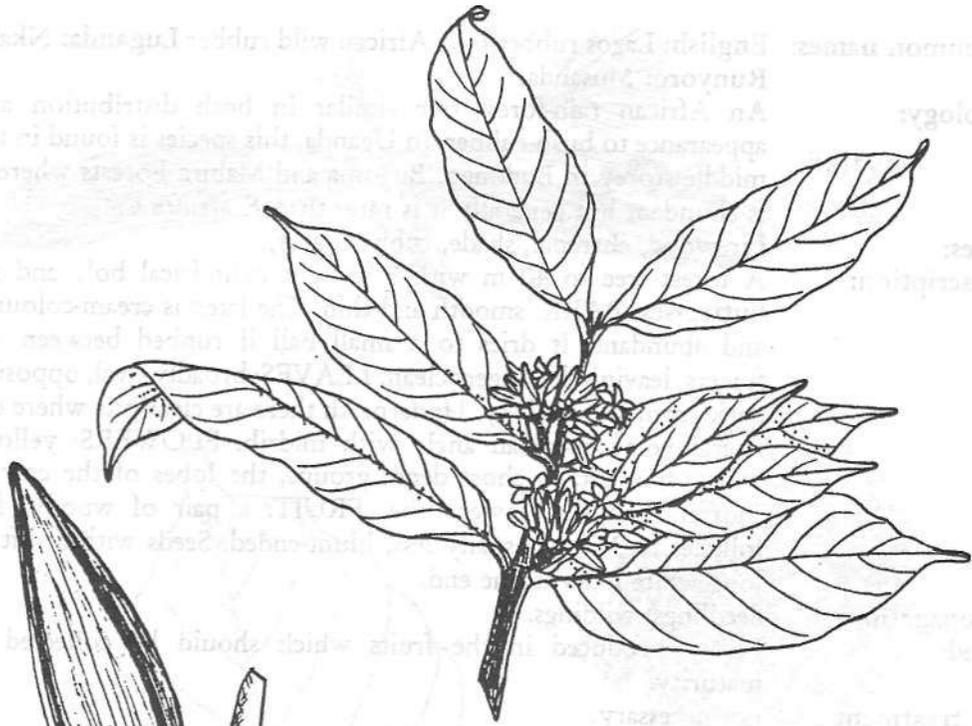
treatment:

storage:

can be stored up to two months, but best sown immediately after collection.

Management: Fast growing. Pollarding.

Remarks: This species differs from *Funtumia elastica* by having sticky latex which does not roll into balls. Neither does it have pits in the axils of the main lateral veins and the fruit are longer. Grow as a pure stand or intercropped with banana, coffee or cocoa. The wood is white, even-textured and cheap furniture is made out of it.



fruit capsules

one open

