

Indigenous

Trade name: Opepe.

Common names: **Kwamba:** Kilingi, kibuki-lingi.

Ecology: One of 4 tropical African species, this tree extends from West Africa south to Angola. It is a commercial timber of West Africa. In Uganda it is confined to the tropical rain forest of Bundibugyo District west of the Ruwenzori Mountains.

Uses: Timber (heavy construction), poles, posts, shade, ornamental.

Description: A slender forest tree to 40 m, the tall bole up to 15 m in diameter, usually without buttresses. **BARK:** pale grey-brown with shallow longitudinal fissures. **LEAVES:** oval to 15 cm long, bigger when young, often rounded at the base to a stalk about 1 cm long **with a pair of distinctive leafy stipules at the base, 1.0-2.5 cm with a sharp wing** at the back. **FLOWERS:** small, green-white-yellow and tubular, in **solitary terminal heads** (unbranched), **3 cm across, stalks only about 1 cm.** **FRUIT: grey-brown and round, 3-4 cm across** containing many tiny brown seeds in a white pulp. **Outer skin spiky and roughly ornamented.**

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings.

Seed: The composite fruit becomes soft when it ripens. After collection on the ground, the fruit is crushed and dried and the seeds threshed out.

treatment: not necessary.

storage: store in sealed containers in a cool place and sow within 2 months.

Management: Pruning.

Remarks: The wood is suitable for fence posts and bridges being resistant to fungi and moderately termite resistant. It is a good shade tree and has been successfully tried by the Forestry Department planted as pure stands. In West Africa the heavy durable wood, bright orange-yellow in colour, has been used for harbours, docks and piers as it resists marine borers.

