

Indigenous

**Common names:** **English:** African locust bean **Kwamba:** Kidiki **Luganda:** Joge **Lugwe:** Muyenjajenja **Rukiga:** Musese **Rukonjo:** Ngega **Runyoro:** Mujojo **Rutoro:** Lyzo.

**Ecology:** A tree of closed lowland rain forest and riverine forest south to Mozambique and also in coastal forests of Kenya. In Uganda, it occurs in all the lowland forests along water courses and in gallery forests near water.

**Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, food (fruit pulp, seed), fodder (pods), mulch, ornamental (avenue tree), tannin, dye.

**Description:** A deciduous rain forest tree 8-30 m with a spreading flat crown and small rounded buttresses. **BARK:** scaly or smooth, grey to yellow-brown, dark and fissured with age. **Orange-coloured resin if cut.** **LEAVES:** bipinnate and feathery with 4-14 pinnae at each side on a stalk to 20 cm. About 11-17 pairs of leaflets on each pinna, the leaflet oblong, slightly curved, tip rounded, 2-3 cm. **FLOWERS:** easy to recognize, small flowers are in **bright red club-shaped heads hanging down on stalks to 30 cm, with a strong unpleasant scent (attracting fruit bats). Heads up to 8 cm long.** **FRUIT:** characteristic pods hang down in clusters, dark brown-purple, 30-60 cm long with stalk, the pod somewhat narrowed between the seeds. **Thick black seeds lie in a dry mealy yellow pulp** which tastes sweet.

/ J

**Propagation:** Seedlings (sow seeds in pots), wildings.

**Seed:** Contained in a non-splitting pod which falls to the ground with the seed. To extract the seed, the pod must be crushed and the seed separated from the pulp.

**treatment:** briefly boil the seed, allow to cool and soak for 12 hours.

**storage:** the pods and seeds are attacked by insects even when still on the mother tree. Seeds should be screened before storage. Store in sealed containers in a cool place. Add ash to reduce insect damage. No. of seeds per kg: about 5,000.

**Management:**

**Remarks:** In Uganda, this forest tree and its useful products are scarcely used. Similar species in West Africa are often the only trees left standing in savannah because their food products are well known. Leaves, rich in nitrogen and ash, make valuable mulch. Pods are used in numerous West African food dishes and also as cattle fodder. The seeds are rich in protein and the surrounding pulp is very sweet. The bark contains both tannin and a red-brown dye used to colour leather. The species should be encouraged in Uganda as it would grow well with coffee, cocoa and bananas—widely spaced. It is a beautiful avenue tree and should be promoted to its full potential.

