

Indigenous

**Common names:** **Luganda:** Muyati.

**Ecology:** A small savannah tree extending from West Africa to the Sudan, Zaire, Tanzania and Ethiopia in wooded grassland, frequently dominant. In Uganda, it is widespread and occurs in wooded grass savannah preferring sites with loamy black cotton soil in high-rainfall areas.

**Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, bee hives.

**Description:** A small deciduous tree 7-13 m. **BARK:** light grey becoming black and deeply fissured. Branchlets light to dark red-brown. **LEAVES:** **tufted at the end of branches, spirally arranged, long oval 15-24 cm long, densely hairy when young**, later hairy on veins and some other hairs, 9-16 pairs lateral veins, base unequal-rounded, a stalk to 4 cm. **FLOWERS:** on **spikes 7-16 cm long**, beside leaves, **cream-white**, stalked 2-3 cm, **very hairy and with a strong rotten-meat smell**. **FRUIT:** dry and **2 winged, narrow oblong 5-8 cm long** by 3.5 cm wide, tip usually notched, sometimes with a small peg, finely hairy, on a stalk to 1 cm, pale green ripening brown.

**Propagation:** Direct sowing on site, wildings and seedlings.

**Seed:** In order to extract the seeds from the woody fruit, collect them in a heap, spray with water and cover with grass or leaves. After a day or so the outer cover becomes soft and the seeds can then be extracted.

**treatment:** After extracting the seeds from the fruit, they should be soaked overnight in cold water and sown the following day.

**storage:** if necessary to store keep the whole fruit.

**Management:** Fast growing; coppicing.

**Remarks:** Produces excellent charcoal. The timber is yellow-brown, hard, durable and tough and works well.

