

# Vangueria apiculata

*Rubiaceae*

Indigenous

**Common names:** **Ateso:** Emalere **Luganda:** Mutugundo **Lugishu:** Shikomosi, kidangerere **Luo A:** Adengoye **Luo L:** Amalera **Lusoga:** Lutegankofu **Rukonjo:** Kasogo.

**Ecology:** A widespread species in evergreen forest, near water or in bushland, often on termite mounds and rocky outcrops, from Ethiopia to Zimbabwe. In Uganda it is widely distributed in secondary scrub, in open forest and in cultivated areas.

**Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, poles (hut building), food (fruit), utensils.

**Description:** A deciduous shrub or small tree 1.5-10.0 m. **BARK:** smooth grey-brown. **LEAVES:** **thin and papery (no hairs)**, more or less oval, **the tip pointed, about 13 cm long and 6 cm wide with 7-11 main veins** each side of the midrib, vein network clear below, stalk only 0.7 cm, stipules at nodes are quite thin, 0.8 cm long. **FLOWERS:** beside leaves, **green-white-yellow in much-branched bunches**, tiny flowers tubular. **FRUIT:** green becoming yellow-brown, **rounded 17-22 mm long**, edible.

**Propagation:** Direct sowing on site, wildings, seedlings (sow seed in pots).

**Seed:** Seed can be obtained after eating the fruit and collecting the scattered seeds or where the fruits have fallen on the ground. After collection they are crushed and the seeds separated, soaking in cold water overnight may hasten germination, sow immediately after collection.

**treatment:**

**storage:**

**Management:** Coppicing, pollarding.

**Remarks:** Intercrop with other fruit trees in an orchard or plant as a backyard fruit tree.

