

Ficus vallis-choudae

Moraceae

Indigenous

Common names: **Kakwa:** Obologoi **Luganda:** Kikokowe **Lugbara:** Bulabo, obulo **Lusoga:** Mudode, kidondwe **Runyankore:** Murebe.

Ecology: A riverine fig tree found in much of East Africa and from Ethiopia south to Mozambique. In Uganda it grows beside rivers and lakes and in groundwater forests. It is well distributed in all districts except Kotido and Moroto. Easily seen in Mabira Forest.

Uses: Firewood, food (figs), soil and water conservation.

Description: A huge tree 6-20 m with a widely spreading crown, buttresses sometimes present. **BARK:** rough, grey to pale brown. Leafy twigs, often white or hairy, **skin flaking when dry.** **LEAVES:** more or less stiff, dark green, easily recognized, wide oval, the base heart-shaped about **20 cm long and across (4-24 cm), the edge widely toothed mostly wavy**, usually without hairs, **the stalk 2-11 cm.** The 2 main lateral veins from the base reach beyond the middle of the leaf, 3-5 other veins each side of the midrib. **FIGS: single**, about **3-6 cm across when fresh**, beside or just below leaves, succulent and edible, round to oval **yellow-orange with orange stripes when ripe**, hairy or not, on a short woody stalk.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings.

Seed: Plenty of viable seed in the figs to be extracted and dried, **treatment:** not necessary.

storage: can be stored up to two months.

Management: Fast growing. Pollarding and lopping.

Remarks: Can be planted in areas where the watertable has been depleted and also along lake edges and streams.

