

Indigenous

Common names: English: Giant yellow mulberry **Kwamba:** Kibanda, kibende
Luganda: Mugunga, musinyanuro **Rukiga:** Echuvu, mufe
Runyankore: Kiruhura **Rutoro:** Mwebende.

Ecology: A rain-forest tree of East Africa south to Mozambique. In Uganda, it grows in lowland and mountain forests preferring moist valleys and river banks. Two forms occur: the lowland form has larger leaves and fruits and the mountain form smaller ones.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, food (fruit), mulch, soil and water conservation (control of flooding).

Description: A medium-sized tree to 10 m with a short bole and large branches, often carried on stilt roots to 60 cm. **BARK:** grey-brown, much watery sap. **LEAVES:** distinctive **large palmate with 5-7 leaflets**, largest central 20-30 cm, outer leaflets smaller, **edge saw-toothed**, upper leaf smooth dark green, **lower side grey-green hairy** with conspicuous veins, leaves are stalked. **FLOWERS:** sexes on separate trees, **male greenish flowers** on stalked heads, **female in small round yellow heads** on a short stalk. **FRUIT:** round, 4 cm across, hard and yellow when ripe, sections like a pineapple. Seeds surrounded with acid edible pulp.

Propagation Seedlings, wildings.

Seed: Contained in a compound fruit similar to a pineapple,

treatment: crush compound fruit and separate seeds,

storage: store in a dry cool place.

Management: Coppicing and pollarding.

Remarks: Large leaves rot below the tree making mulch, thus the tree is good for soil conservation. Recommended for planting in valley bottoms to control silting of rivers.

