

Indigenous

**Common names:** **Rukiga:** Mumaga, muvumaga.

**Ecology:** A tree of the tea family found in upland rain forest and riverine forest in Tanzania, Zaire and south to Angola. In Uganda it is found in mountainous areas of the Impenetrable (Bwindi) Forest and on the western slopes of the Ruwenzori Mountains in Bundi-bugyo District. Like *Maesopsis eminii*, it colonizes mountain wooded grasslands, forest edges and gaps, sometimes in the cultivated land where forest has been cleared.

**Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, timber, shade.

**Description:** A small to medium evergreen tree 6-24 m, the trunk straight and cylindrical, **many branches at right angles, curving upwards, smallest branches drooping, often with yellow hairs**. The trunk may have blunt buttresses. **BARK:** smooth when young, becoming rough and fissured. Much white latex if cut. **LEAVES:** somewhat leathery, long oval, 7-12 cm, tip long pointed, the **edges with blunt teeth**, base somewhat rounded to a short stalk, a few hairs on veins below. **FLOWERS:** yellow-white-green, very small, in small branching heads beside leaves, **usually 2 together**, all quite hairy. **FRUIT:** a woody hemispherical **capsule, only 3 mm, opening into 5 parts** to release many tiny winged seeds.

**Propagation:** Seedlings, wildings.

**Seed:** Can be collected from mature capsules in the Impenetrable (Bwindi) Forest.

**treatment:** not necessary.

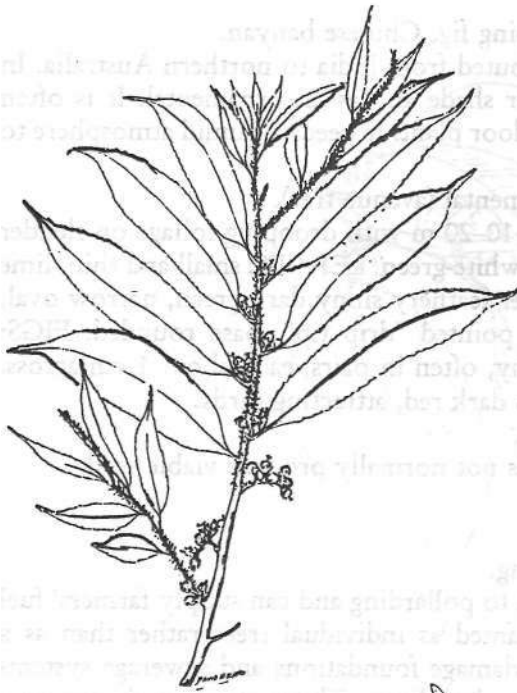
**storage:** store in sealed containers in a cool place.

**Management:** Fast growing. Coppicing, pollarding.

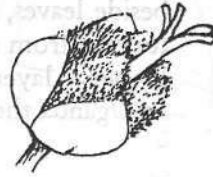
**Remarks:** This is a pioneer species in mountain forest tree succession. It is quick growing and provides a durable grey-brown timber (well liked in Kigezi) within 20 years or so. It is being grown along with agricultural crops, e.g. coffee and banana, in highlands bordering the Impenetrable (Bwindi) Forest. Can be planted as a stand or as individual trees.

**Ficalhoa laurifolia**

*Theaceae*



enlarged  
flowers



open  
fruit  
capsule



much enlarged  
seed

