

Indigenous

Common names: **Rukiga:** Mubaba **Sebei:** Narekio.

Ecology: A tree of the cedar forests and dry upland forest, or its remnants, in Eastern Africa. In Uganda it grows in mountain forests between 1,600 and 2,900 m, sometimes in climax forest on drier sites but more often in secondary forest or on forest edges.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, medicine (bark, roots), ornamental, soil conservation.

Description: Usually a small shrub or tree 4-9 m, occasionally to 20 m, with a straight trunk. **BARK:** grey-light brown, smooth to rough, when older, flaking in thin yellow-brown flakes. When cut a characteristic unpleasant burnt smell. **Branchlets square.** **LEAVES: opposite, bright red when young** (edge toothed), long oval to 7 cm, wider at the tip, which is blunt or notched, edge rolled under, base narrowed to a **short grooved stalk, often pink.** Lower leaf with fine network of veins. **FLOWERS: white-cream fading to pink-red,** strong smelling, very small in **dense rounded heads to 7.5 cm across** (shorter than leaves). **FRUIT: round, red-pink,** thinly fleshy, red-brown when ripe, **less than 1 cm, in heavy bunches,** containing the seed.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings.

Seed: Collect fruit when ripe and soft. Can be left to dry together with the pulp or the seed can be squeezed out from the fresh drupe and gradually dried. No. of seed per kg: 8,000-10,000.

treatment: soaking in cold water for 24 hours may hasten germination,

storage: store in sealed containers in a cool place.

Management: Coppicing, pollarding.

Remarks: Good as an ornamental. Can also be used as a plantation tree or to control erosion on degraded sites. It has been reported as being used locally for farm tools and fences.



enlarged
flower

