

Indigenous

Trade names: Gedu, nohor, mukusu, Budongo mahogany.

Common names: **English:** Budongo mahogany **Luganda:** Mukusu **Rukonjo:** Kikura **Runyoro:** Mukusu, muyovu **Rutoro:** Mukusu, muyova.

Ecology: An important timber tree from Guinea to Angola in lowland and mid-altitude rain forest. In Uganda, it also grows at forest edges and in thickets and gallery forest in Budongo, Mabira, S.W. Elgon and West Mengo Forests and Mpanga, usually below 1,220 m.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber (furniture), veneer, shade, ornamental (avenue tree).

Description: A very large deciduous tree to 50 m, **the bole straight or wavy to 25 m clear** to a deep crown with dense foliage. **Blunt buttresses** may be present up to 2.5 m and **surface roots are well developed**. **BARK:** grey-brown with pink patches, **smooth and thin, flaking in irregular pieces 10-20 cm leaving concave scars**. Branches vertical and marked with leaf scars; young branches dotted with lenticels. **LEAVES:** clustered at ends of branches, **even pinnate**, the stalk to 30 cm long with **10-16 leaflets almost opposite, each to 12 cm long, tip round or pointed, sharply tipped, 7-10 lateral veins, but other veins indistinct**, hairs or the midrib below, almost no stalk. **FLOWERS:** large, **stiff flowering heads to 35 cm long, flowers male or female**, very small, 5 green-white petals with a pink or yellow tinge, a white tube of ten stamens. Flowers from November to May. **FRUIT:** a **cylindrical woody capsule, sharply pointed, narrowed to the base, dark brown-black and spotted, 15-20 cm long hanging on the tree, curving when ripe then opening at the base into 5 parts, falling together like a cap**. Black seeds with brown wings, 8-9 cm long, separate from the central column.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings.

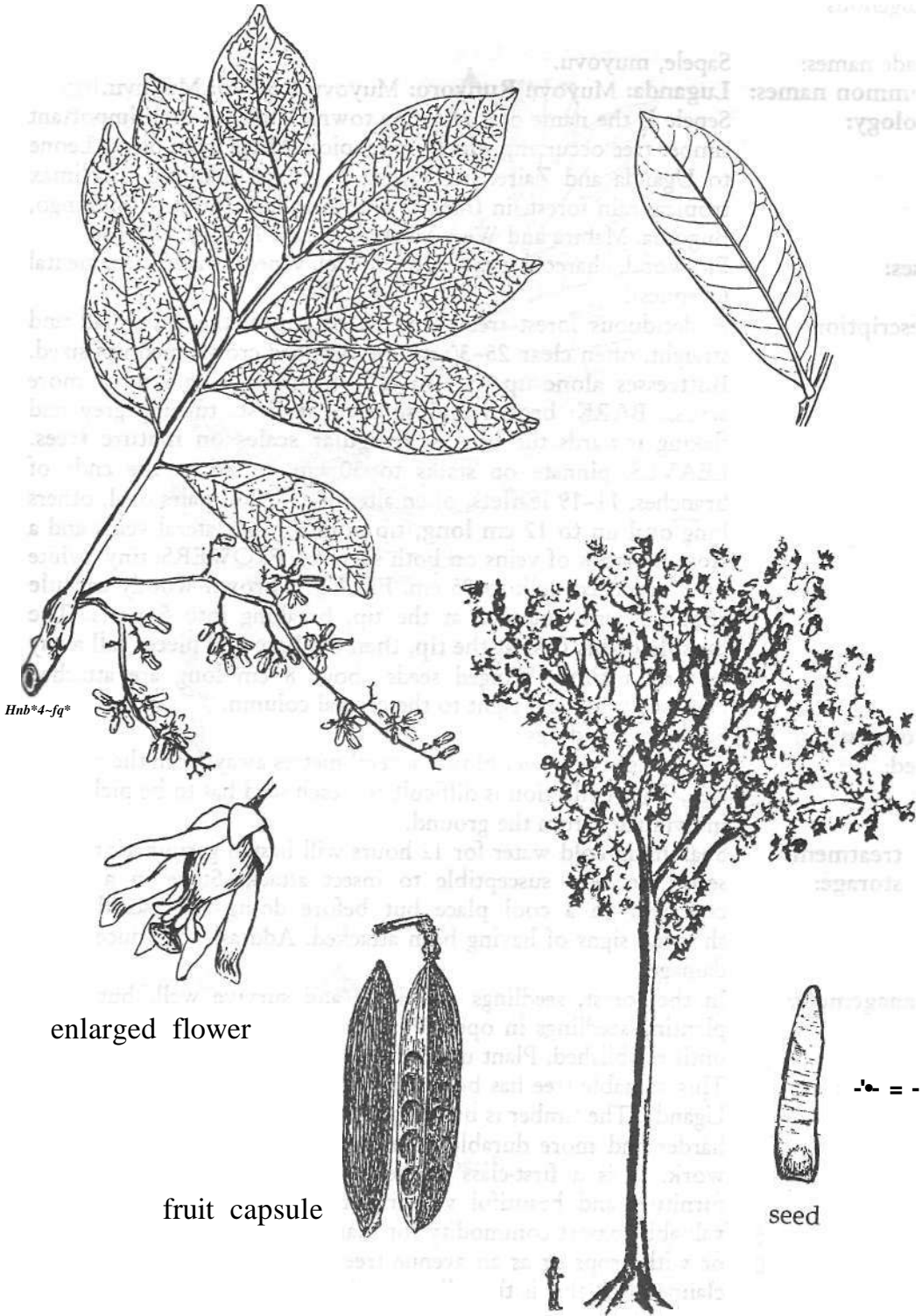
Seed: The winged seed may be blown several metres from the mother tree. The trees are so tall that capsules cannot be picked from them. So collecting the seed requires much effort in searching the forest floor. No. of seeds per kg: about 3,200.

treatment: soak seed in water overnight to hasten germination and plant in rows in a seed bed to a depth ³A of the size of the seed (not including the wings) with the wings facing upward,

storage: seeds are very susceptible to insect attack. Store good seed in a sealed container in a cool place. Add ash to reduce insect damage.

Management: Initial tending and shade are required until established.

Remarks: This species has been overharvested in Uganda and is now nearly extinct. Farmers should be encouraged to plant it as a pure stand, avenue or ornamental tree or in banana, coffee or tea plantations.



Hnb*4-fq*

enlarged flower

fruit capsule

seed