

Indigenous

Trade name: Utile, mufumbi.

Common names: **English:** Budongo heavy mahogany, feather sepele **Luganda:** Mukola, muyovu **Madi:** Olwa **Runyoro:** Muyova **Rutoro:** Mufumbi.

Ecology: A rain-forest tree found from Sierra Leone to Uganda and Angola. One of the outstanding African timber trees exported largely from Ivory Coast and Ghana. In Uganda, it grows in mixed to climax rain forests. It was common in Budongo in Masindi District and Mabira; rare elsewhere and normally occurring below 1,400 m.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber, veneer.

Description: A very large deciduous tree to 50 m with a clean uniform bole to 24 m; a few massive branches to the leafy and feathery crown. The bole 2 m or more in diameter and with a 3.6 m girth gives very wide boards. **Rounded buttresses reach up to 2-5 m.** Brittle branches shatter into small pieces when the tree falls. **BARK:** thick and grey-brown, deeply cracked and grooved, breaking into squarish pieces 3-6 cm across which persist on the tree. **LEAVES:** even pinnate, 18-22 leaflets on stalks 30-50 cm in tufts at the ends of the branches. **Leaflets rather thin, long oblong, 10-14 cm long, narrowed to the tip, the base unequal rounded,** the leaf stalk with short reddish hairs. **FLOWERS:** small and white on stalks to 20 cm. **FRUIT:** a **woody brown-black capsule, dotted with large reddish lenticels,** club-shaped, tip rounded 15-20 cm, the **5 sections thick and curved inwards, breaking open at the tip but remaining attached at the base until the whole capsule falls.** Winged seeds dark brown, 6-10 cm.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings.

Seed: The winged seeds are blown several metres away from the mother tree. Thus collection is difficult and each seed has to be picked up individually from the ground. No. of seeds per kg: 1,880.

treatment: soaking in cold water for 12 hours will hasten germination.

storage: Easily attacked by insects. Store in a cool dry place. Add ash to reduce insect damage.

Management: Shading is necessary for seedlings until they are fully established.

Remarks: *E. utile* is one of the rarest of all the Entandrophragma and indiscriminate harvesting during the years of political unrest in Uganda has brought it close to extinction. Planting should be a priority in afforestation and agroforestry programmes. The tree yields an excellent timber like that of true mahogany (*Khaya* spp.) and it has multiple uses in fine wood work. It is reddish with a fine grain, and once dried it is preferred to *E. cylindricum*. It is more durable than sepele or true mahogany. The bole is the largest of any Ugandan tree.

