

Indigenous

Common names: **English:** Indian plum **Lugishu:** Singulurwe **Luo L:** Kokowi **Runyankore:** Muzhebazhebe **Sebei:** Tungururu.

Ecology: A small tree that is widespread in tropical Africa and Madagascar as well as east to China. It is found in all types of woodland and prefers sandy soils and a high watertable; sometimes riverine. In Uganda it grows in lower montane woodlands associated with *Vitex madiensis*, *Vitex doniana* and *Syzygium owariense*. It is abundant on Mt. Elgon in Kapchorwa District.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber (tools), farm tools, fodder (leaves), food (fruit), medicine (leaves, bark, roots), live fence.

Description: A deciduous **spiny shrub** or small tree, usually 3-5 m; spines on the trunk usually straight sometimes branched, up to 12 cm long but quite variable. **BARK: rough, pale yellow-grey**, branches may have a yellow powder at first. **LEAVES:** variable in size, **oval**, to **12 cm, edge toothed**, 4-7 pairs veins clear on both surfaces, stalk to 2 cm. **FLOWERS:** small, cream, fragrant; male flowers with very **many yellow stamens**, female flowers with a divided spreading style. **FRUIT: red-purple-black, round** and juicy but acid, **to 2.5 cm across**, persisting on the tree. They contain up to 10 small seeds, hard and flat.

Propagation: Seedlings (natural regeneration).

Seed:

treatment: Cracking the hard seed coat may improve germination.

storage:

Management: Coppicing, pruning, pollarding and trimming if a fence..

Remarks: Sometimes cultivated for its edible fruit.



Female flowers produce fruit

