

Indigenous

Common names: **Kakwa:** Kobo **Lugbara:** Abogo.

Ecology: One of 5 tropical African species, *Isoberlinia doka* is found in deciduous woodland from Guinea to northern Zaire but not south to the equator. In Uganda, the eastern limit, it grows in savannah woodland, often near rocky outcrops. It is very local in the North Western Region, often with *Daniella oliveri* and *Afzelia africana*.
Uses: Firewood, charcoal.

Description: A deciduous trees 10-20 m with steeply ascending branches and a spreading crown. The bole may reach 4 m. **BARK:** pale grey, cracked, flaking off in long scales; when cut a red resin exudes. **LEAVES:** even pinnate, 10-25 cm long with 3-4 pairs of shiny leaflets, almost opposite, long oval, 6-18 cm long, unequal at the base, with 6-11 lateral veins each side. **Young leaves bright red.** **FLOWERS:** white, fragrant, in large branched heads, lax but dense, final branchlets 4-8 cm, often hairy; 2 leafy bractioles, green then light brown, thick and hard, 9-12 mm long completely enclose the flower buds. 5-6 petals, the upper one larger, not bilobed, about 1 cm long. **FRUIT:** flat, leathery-woody pods, pale brown and densely hairy when young, 15-30 cm long, containing 4-6 flat seeds 2-3 cm long. **Unripe fruit stick up above the leafy crown like flags. They split explosively and each half curls up in a spiral.**

Propagation: Regenerates profusely from seed so wildings are easily collected. Seedlings can also be raised in pots.

Seed: When the fruit split, the seeds are thrown far away from the mother tree.

treatment: boiling for 10 minutes will hasten germination.

storage: liable to insect attack. Add ash to reduce insect damage.

Management: Encourage natural regeneration by protecting from fire and tending of naturally grown seedlings. Thinning, pollarding.

Remarks: A useful fuel species since it grows where few other species thrive. Can be encouraged in the whole of North Western Region.

