

Macaranga kilimandscharica

Euphorbiaceae

Indigenous

Common names: **Lugishu:** Mudwess, kiaranwe, luwessu **Rukiga:** Muburashasha, murara, mushasha **Rukonjo:** Muhunga **Rutoro:** Muhoti **Sebei:** Kaptebema.

Ecology: A tree abundant in wetter montane forest of East Africa. It is a very fast-growing pioneer species, often regenerating profusely at forest edges, 1,500-3,000 m. In Uganda, it is common in the Kalinzu and Kasyoha-Kitomi Forests in Bushenyi District, in the Impenetrable (Bwindi) Forest, in Kabale District and in the transition forest on Mt. Elgon. Generally it is abundant in wetter montane forests.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, building poles, soil conservation.

Description: A tree which can reach 20 m with a straight trunk to a dense crown of shiny leaves, the bole fluted in older trees with broad round columns. It may also be a multi-stemmed small tree in thickets. **BARK:** pale red-brown or grey, thin and smooth. **LEAVES:** grouped at the ends of up-curving branches and hanging down. Generally **heart shaped with a long pointed tip** about 13 cm x 8 cm across on **a long stalk to 9 cm**, the base usually rounded (even peltate—stalk attached within the leaf blade). **Two typical glands lie on the leaf stalk just below the blade.** Leaves **3-7 nerved** from the base and **dense rusty and glandular hairs below**, very clear on youngest leaves. **FLOWERS:** yellow-green, male and female separate, very small, on stalks to 10 cm. **FRUIT:** small **dull green capsules, rounded about 6 mm long**, covered in **yellow glands** and containing shiny brown seeds.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings.

Seed: Many seeds are produced in one season. Since they are shiny, they are very easy to find on the ground.

treatment: not necessary.

storage: sow as soon as collected.

Management: Fast growing.

Remarks: Will produce firewood within three years. Can be planted as a pure stand for firewood and poles or intercropped with coffee and banana.

