

Indigenous

Common names: **Luganda:** Mweganza **Lugishu:** Dowa, kidowadowa, mudowa **Lugwere:** Pate **Rukiga:** Chanya, muranga, mwanya **Rukonjo:** Kiona **Sebei:** Chebakwa.

Ecology: A tree of upland forest; a quick-growing pioneer of disturbed forest or clearings. In Uganda, it is found in lower montane forests occurring in gaps, along streams or as pure stands in Ankole, Kigezi, Elgon and Ruwenzori.

Uses: Firewood, timber (carving), soil conservation.

Description: A tree 7-25 m with a short trunk and spreading crown. Young parts covered with pale brown star-shaped hairs. BARK thin, smooth and pale grey-brown-white, underbark green. LEAVES: **large and stalked, alternate**, broadly oval to almost circular, **base heart-shaped**, tip pointed, edge occasionally toothed, **6-35 cm long and across, stalk 10-20 cm, mature leaves with spreading hairs on veins below, 5-9 veins** spread like fingers of a hand. Leaves often eaten by insects. FLOWERS: **small, yellow-green, in terminal heads**, male larger, 50 x 30 cm, no petals, 15-30 stamens. FRUIT: a **3-part capsule about 1 cm across contains the seeds**.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings.

Seed: Collect the capsule just before it opens. Then spread on polythene sheeting and collect the seeds when the capsules have opened,

treatment: not necessary.

storage: store in sealed containers in a cool place, and sow within 2 months.

Management: Fast growing; coppicing, pollarding.

Remarks: The species is suitable for planting in highlands. The white wood is soft, perishable, coarse and fibrous, therefore only suitable for pulp and making models. *Neoboutonia macrocalyx* can be grown as a pure stand for quick production of firewood and it can also be used for soil conservation.

