Pseudospondias microcarpa   *Anacardiaceae*

Indigenous

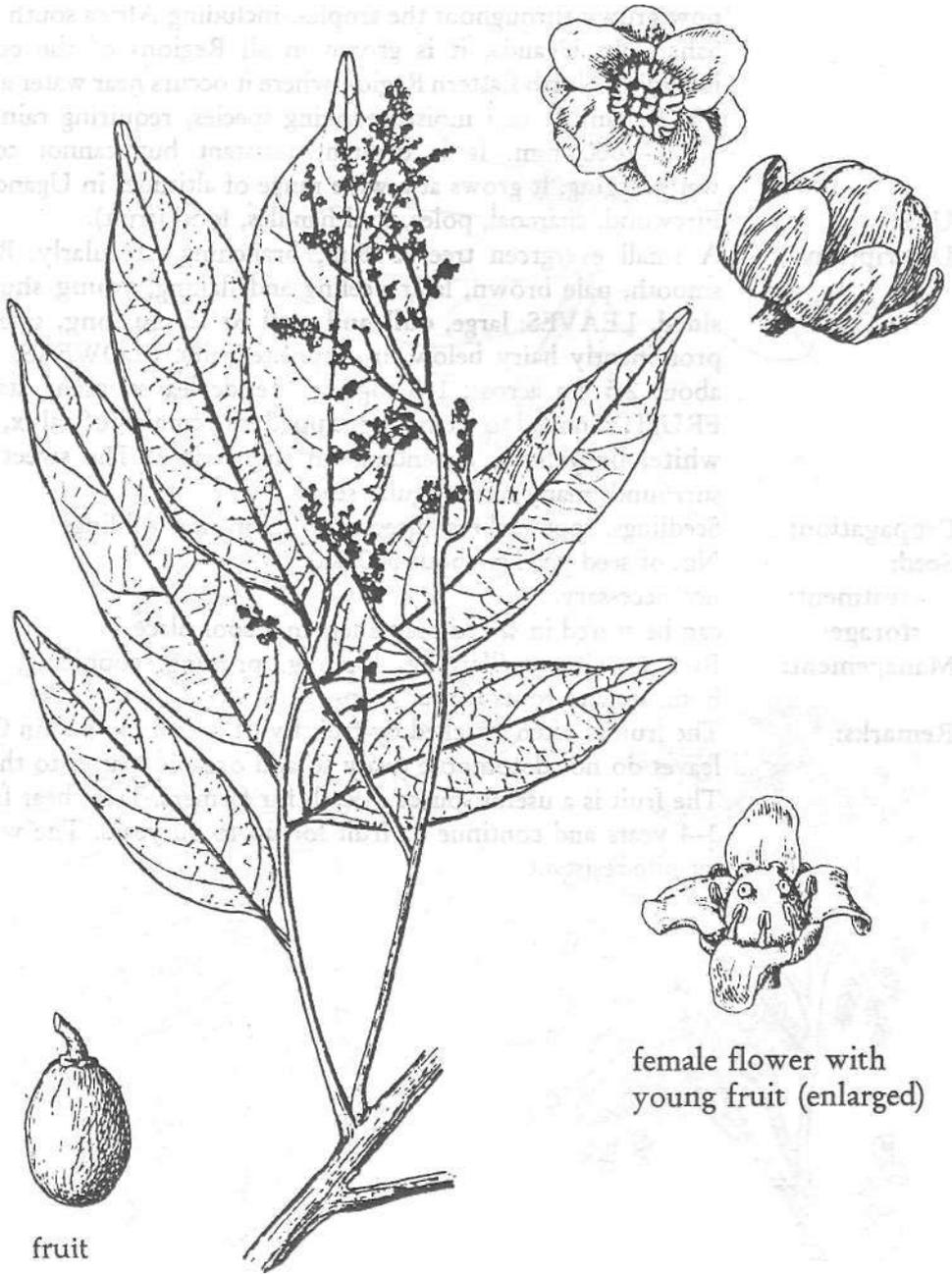|	
Common names:	**Kwamba:** Mbolu **Luganda:** Muziru **Lunyuli:** Muhohote **Lusoga:** Muziru **Rukonjo:** Mungu **Runyoro:** Bagambanimpyata **Rutoro:** Bagambanimpyata.
Ecology:	A large African tree from Senegal to the Sudan, south to Angola and Zambia. In Uganda, it is widespread and often abundant growing on lake shores, at rain-forest edges and in swampy areas in tropical forests and near streams.
Uses:	Firewood, charcoal, food (fruit), medicine (bark), soil and water conservation.
Description:	A large spreading tree 10-14 m, the bole short (3-18 m), up to 2 m in diameter and strongly buttressed, the trunk often irregular, twisted, the branches growing near the base and often covered with other plants. BARK: smooth and thin when young, becoming yellow-grey and rough, flaking in large pieces. LEAVES: odd pinnate on stalks to 30 cm, with **2-8 pairs leaflets plus 1, each leaflet stalked,** rather stiff, oval 5-20 cm, **base very unequal, tip long pointed,** darker above than below. Basal leaflets the smallest. FLOWERS: in **loose heads, 10-32 cm, beside leaves,** the stalks dull red-brown, very small white male and female flowers, parts in fours. FRUIT: a **soft edible drupe to 2.5 cm, blue-black when ripe,** the stone inside is 4-sided and contains the seeds.
Propagation:	Seedlings (sow in pots), wildings.
Seed:	Drupes produced in big numbers; similar to *Maesopsis eminii.*
treatment:	none, soak in cold water for 12 hours, or nick seed.
storage:	can be stored for up to 5 months after drying the whole fruit.
Management:	Fast growing. Coppicing, pollarding.
Remarks:	Brickworks operating near swamp forests have destroyed many of these trees. Plant individual trees for their fruit or many to protect stream banks and regulate water flow in swamps and rivers. In West Africa the seeds are used for making beads. The resinous bark is used to treat jaundice and eye conditions.

female flower with
young fruit (enlarged)

fruit