Myrianthus holstii *Moraceae* Ind-igenous

**Common names:** English: Giant yellow mulberry, **Kwamba:** Kibanda, kibende **Luganda:** Mugunga, musinyanuro **Rukiga:** Echuvu, mufe **Runyankore:** Kiruhura **Rutoro:** Mwebende.

**Ecology:** A rain-forest tree of East Africa south to Mozambique. In Uganda, it grows in lowland and mountain forests preferring moist valleys and river banks. Two forms occur: the lowland form has larger leaves and fruits and the mountain form smaller ones.

**Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, fruit, mulch, soil and water conservation.

**Description:** A medium-sized tree to 10 m with a short bole and large branches, often carried on stilt roots to 60 cm. BARK: grey-brown, much watery sap. LEAVES: distinctive **large palmate with 5-7 leaflets,** largest central 20-30 cm, outer leaflets smaller, **edge saw-toothed,** upper leaf smooth dark green, **lower side grey-green hairy** with conspicuous veins, leaves are stalked. FLOWERS: sexes on separate trees, **male greenish flowers** on stalked heads, **female in small round yellow heads** on a short stalk. FRUIT: round, 4 cm across, hard and yellow when ripe, sections like a pineapple. Seeds surrounded with acid edible pulp.

**Propagation:** Seedlings, wildlings.

**Seed:** Contained in a compound fruit similar to a pineapple.

**treatment:** crush compound fruit and separate seeds,

**storage:** store in a dry cool place.

**Management:** Coppicing and pollarding.

**Remarks:** Large leaves rot below the tree making mulch, thus the tree is good for soil conservation. Recommended for planting in valley bottoms to control silting of rivers.