Schefflera actinophylla *Araliaceae* Indigenous

**Common names: English:** Queensland umbrella tree**, Lugishu:** Mubondwe, chichipeno **Sebei:** Kwelet, kwalet.

**Ecology:** native to [tropical](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tropical) [rainforests](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rainforest) and [gallery forests](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gallery_forest) in [Australia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australia) (eastern [Queensland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queensland) and the [Northern Territory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_Territory)), [New Guinea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Guinea) and [Java](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java). In Uganda, it is found in lower montane forest associated with Hagenia and *Afrocrania volkensii.* It is common on Mt. Elgon and also in the mountains of Karamoja.

**Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, medicine, shade, ornamental.

**Description:** an [evergreen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evergreen) [tree](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tree) growing to 15 m (49 ft) tall. The trunk is often twisty, very irregular, the crown eventually large, rounded and spreading. BARK: LEAVES: compound digitate with 4-7 leaflets each 5-15 cm long the long leaf stalk to 13 cm, each leaflet **smooth bright green, shiny and waxy** above. The name *actinophylla* means "with radiating leaves". FLOWERS: tiny, **red flowers** on stalks to 25 cm, 1 cm branches bearing **up to 1000 flowers.** FRUIT: rounded to 5 mm across, lightly ribbed, light green then **red when** ripe, topped by the remains of 5 styles.

**Propagation:** Cuttings, wildings, seedlings.

**Seed:** Ripe fruit should be collected from the ground and gradually dried.

**treatment:** not necessary.

**storage:** store in sealed containers in a cool place.

**Management:** Requires support to grow straight.

**Remarks:** The tapped resin is used as a medicine for whooping cough. Individual trees can be intercropped with coffee or banana or planted for shade and as avenue trees; also in pots for house decoration.