Albizia zygia *Mimosaceae* Indigenous

**Trade name:** Red nongo.  
**Common names: Ateso:** Ebatat **Kwamba:** Bulera **Luganda:** Mulongo, nongo **Lugwere:** Mulongo, nongo **Lugishu:** Chiruku, komusovio **Lugwere:** mulongo, nongo **Luo** J: Bedo **Lusoga** Mulongo, nongo **Rukonjo:** Nkwasi **Runyankore:** Musebega **Runyoro** Mulongo, nongo **Rutoro:** Mulongo, nongo **Sebei:** Swessu.

**Ecology:** A tree widespread in tropical Africa from Senegal to the Sudan and into Zaire, found in lowland rain forest, riverine forest and woodlands. A typical secondary-forest tree in West Africa, it is also found in thickets and on forest edges in most areas of the wetter savannah of Uganda, 915-1,370 m.

**Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, timber, poles, shade, ornamental, nitrogen fixation.

**Description:** A deciduous tree, usually 20 m (9-30 m) with a **spreading crown of layered foliage,** the trunk often crooked. BARK: smooth when young, mature trees with thick brown bark, scaly or cracked. **When cut the outer layer looks like orange peel.** Young branchlets not densely hairy (as in *A. grandibracteata).* LEAVES: Bipinnate, usually with **3 clear pairs of pinnae (3-5)** and **2-5 pairs leaflets** on stalks about 9 cm long. The **end leaflets longest, 3-7 cm,** and the basal leaflets are the smallest, 1 cm. **Leaflets are widest at the tip, usually blunt** (pointed in *A. grandibracteata).* Young leaflets have **narrow, leafy stipules** at the base*.* FLOWERS: In half-spherical heads about 2 cm across with differently coloured male and female flowers, **white- pink,** the **red stamen tubes hanging out 1-2 cm beyond the corolla.** FRUIT: Flat, papery, dull orange-red-brown pods about 10 x 2 cm (up to 18 x 4 cm) containing 9-12 oval flat seeds about 1 cm across.

**Propagation:** Seedlings, wildlings.

**Seed:** When pods split open the seeds stick on the sides of the pods and are carried away by the wind. Collect pods just before splitting open.

**treatment:** soak in water overnight.

**storage:** Store in a sealed container in a cool place. Add ash to reduce insect damage.

**Management:** Slow growing; pollarding, coppicing.

**Remarks:** Farmers preserve this tree in fields as a host for climbing vines, e.g. yams. It does not compete with food crops. It is a useful timber for indoor construction work and furniture but is not termite proof or durable out of doors