

# Celtis mildbraedii (C. soyauxii)

*Ulmaceae*

Indigenous

**Trade name:** African celtis, celtis.

**Common names:** **English:** Celtis **Kwamba:** Bohwe **Luganda:** Lufugo **Runyoro:** Mukomakoma.

**Ecology:** A lowland understorey forest tree found in the Sudan and East Africa extending to its limit in South Africa. Common in Uganda in closed tropical rain forest, including Budongo and Mengo where it is sometimes the dominant trees. Rare in lake-side forest. It is left for shade in banana, coffee and tea plantations.

**Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, timber, poles, tool handles, shade, ornamental/ avenue.

**Description:** A semi-deciduous tree, conspicuously straight with a **tall slender trunk**, 30-50 m high with a **small rounded crown**, the branches drooping. The **bole may be clear to 30 m**, the **base having large buttresses, thin and sharp**, 2-3 m around above the ground. **BARK:** thin, pale brown and smooth, scaling into small discs or larger pieces. **LEAVES:** dark shiny green, stiff, wavy, generally oblong, average 6 cm (5-17 cm), 3 basal veins not very clear. When dry **outer 2 veins can be seen to reach half way up the leaf**. The edge is rolled under. The tip comes to a sharp point, **base one-sided, on a short leaf stalk. Coarse rounded teeth in the upper half only**, 3-7 lateral veins with close net veins in between. **FLOWERS:** small pale green clusters in leaf axils. **FRUIT: oval, red and juicy when ripe, about 1 cm**, tipped by the dried-up stigma, drying black and 2-4 angled.

**Propagation:** Seedlings, wildings and direct sowing on site.

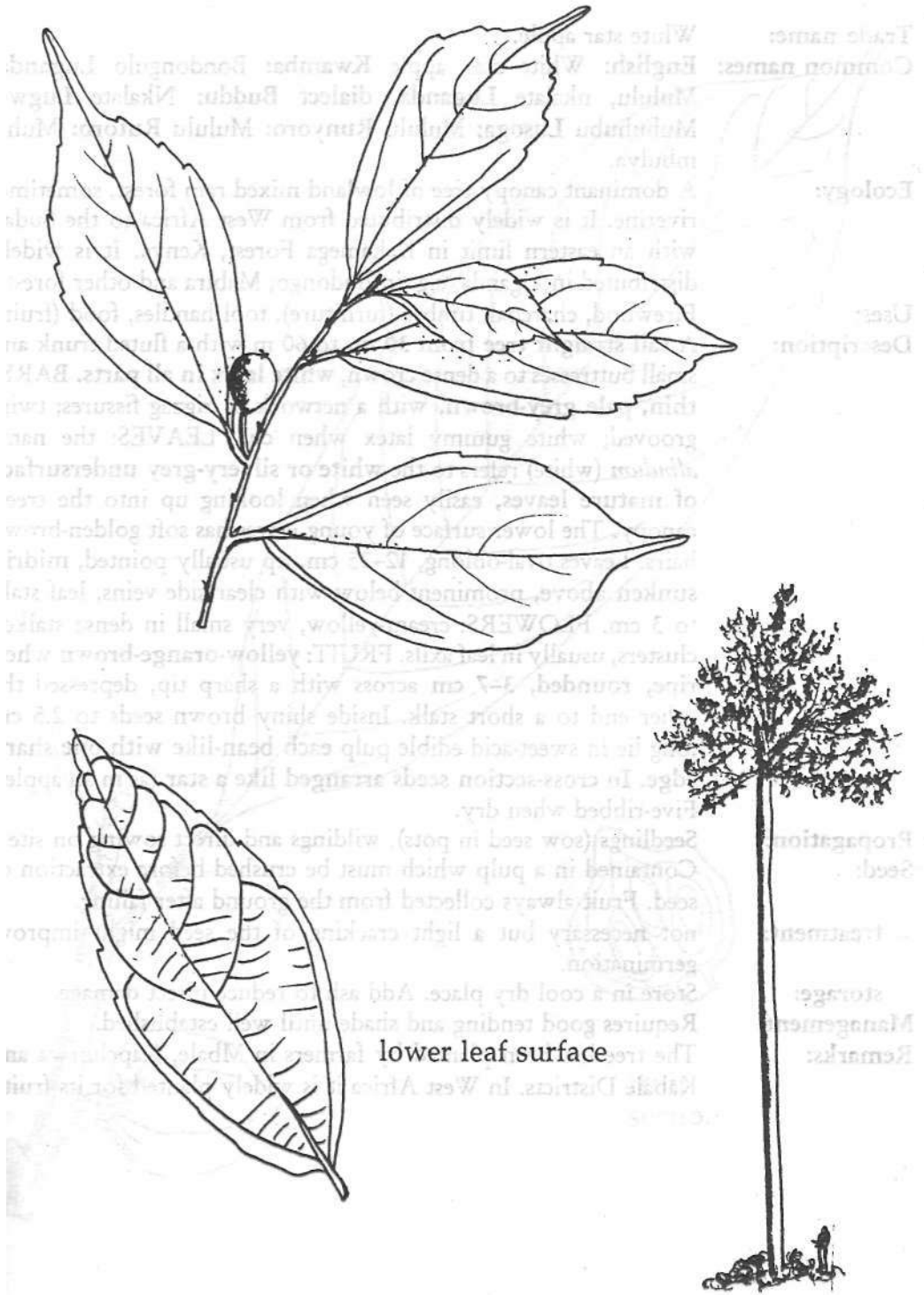
**Seed:** Collected as fruit after falling on the ground. Usually produced in large quantities in a season,

**treatment:** not necessary.

**storage:** Store in an air-tight container in a cool place.

**Management:** Fast growing; pollarding.

**Remarks:** The pale-coloured wood is very strong, makes excellent tool handles and firewood but is not durable in the ground. Plant as a plantation, as an avenue or individual trees for shade.



lower leaf surface