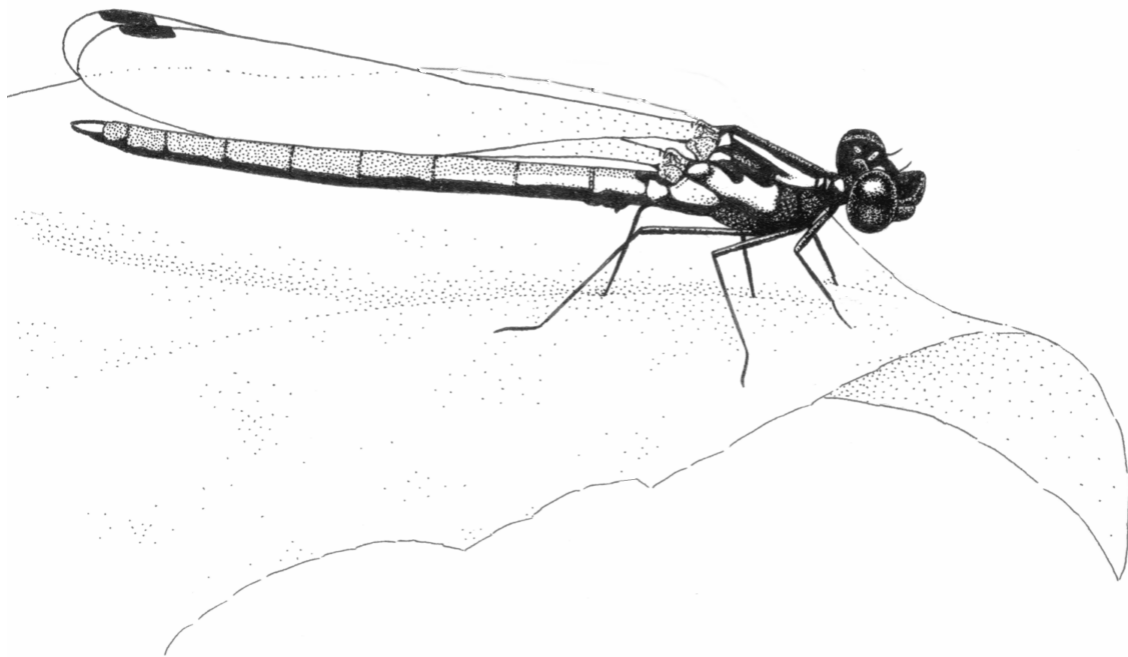


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Front cover: Chlorocypha tenuis, a species of damselfly found in Kakamega Forest. Drawing by K.-D. B. Dijkstra.



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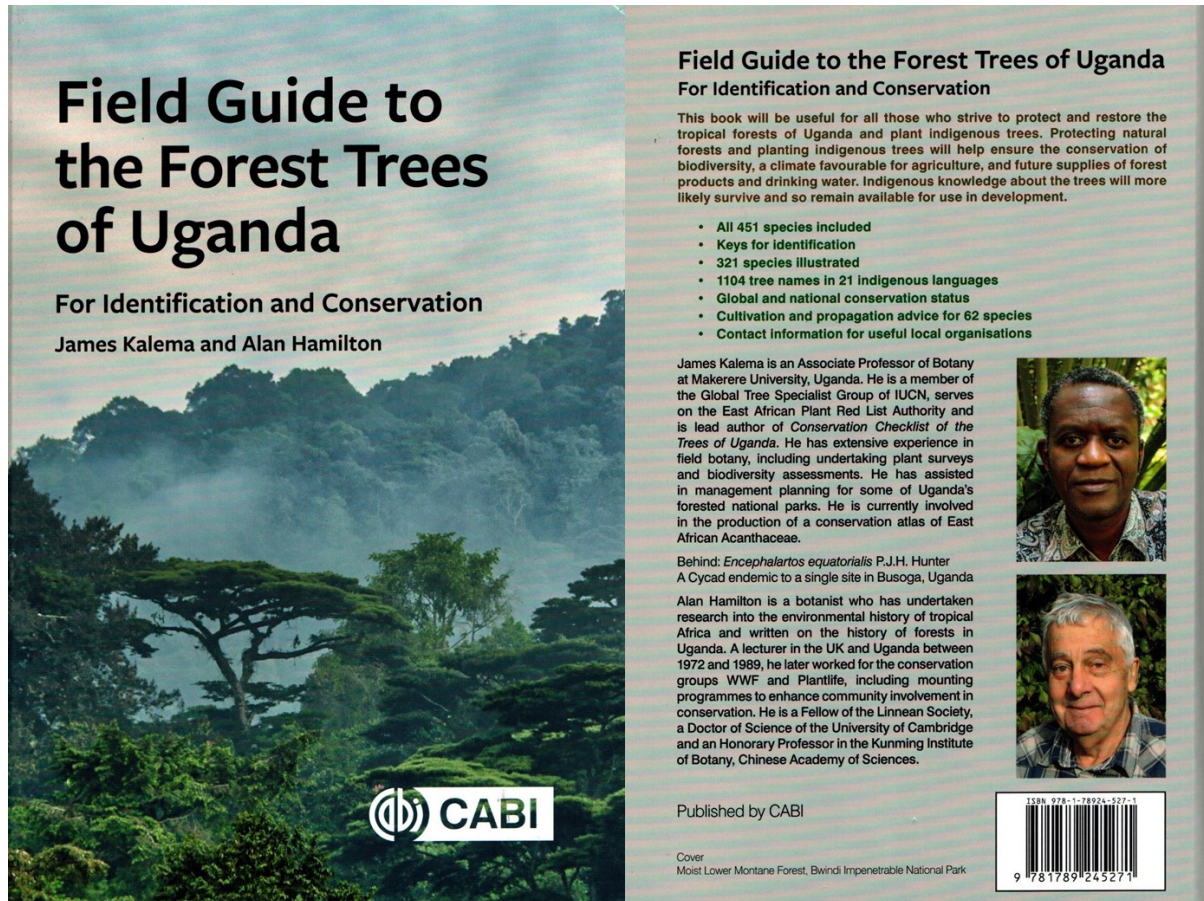
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WHERE HERITAGE LIVES ON

BOOK REVIEW

Field Guide to the Forest Trees of Uganda. For Identification and Conservation.

By James Kalema & Alan Hamilton. Published by CABI, 2020. Pp 277, illustrated. ISBN 978-0-95414-963-5 (softback); 978-1-78924-527-1 (hardback); 978-1-78924-528-8 (ePDF); 978-1-78924-529-5 (ePub). Available from www.cabi.org (worldwide) and www.gustro.com (Uganda).



James Kalema and Alan Hamilton have prepared a revised and updated version of Hamilton's "*A Field Guide to Uganda Forest Trees*" published in 1981, the latter building on the seminal "*The Indigenous Trees of the Uganda Protectorate*" by William Eggleling and Ivan Dale from 1951.

In view of new information gathered over the last 40 years and particularly the numerous name changes as a result of recent phylogenetic research, an updated version was badly needed. The ever-growing threats to forest prompted the authors to extend the text with details on conservation status, as well as on cultivation and propagation.

This is not your regular field guide with lots of colourful pictures of the various species and their flowers. Although well-illustrated with drawings of leaves, fruits and tree shapes, there are hardly any pictures in this book, leave alone pictures of flowers. This is understandable. When walking into a multi-layered tropical forest of which the canopy can be 50 m more above the ground, you will rarely see any flowers. Even recognising leaves that belong to a particular bole will already be challenging. Thus this guide focuses almost entirely on using vegetative characteristics to identify forest trees.

The book is subdivided in ten parts. Part 1 deals with the forests and their trees, and explains what is a forest tree, the distribution and types of forests in Uganda, human influence on forests, the values of indigenous forest trees and natural forests, as well as the conservation status of the forest species.

Part 2 describes how to identify trees or, in other words, what to look out for and how use the book. Part 3 is the central part of this book, namely the key to help you identify the species you may encounter in the forest. It starts with a main key, which will then lead you to one of twelve subkeys. The characters used in

these keys are entirely vegetative characters and do not require an extensive knowledge of flower morphology as most other keys tend to do. At the end of Part 3 is a special key for trees over 20 m tall and for which it may be difficult to observe the leaves in close up. When working your way through these keys, you will end up with either the name of a family, genus or species. In the case of a family or genus name, you will be directed to short keys in Part 4 of the book *i.e.* the description of the actual tree species. For each species the following information is provided: family name, synonyms, local names, a short description, distribution in Uganda, cultivation and propagation if and when known, and miscellaneous notes, which can be known uses or how to distinguish it from a similar looking tree. For most species there is also a drawing of a relevant morphological characteristic, usually the leaf.

The terminology used in the book is explained in a glossary, which forms Part 5. Part 6 provides further information for the field worker such as relevant contact organisations. Part 7 gives a brief introduction into the indigenous languages of Uganda and this is followed by Part 8, which is the literature references. The book ends with an index of vernacular and trade names sorted by language (Part 9), and an index to scientific names (Part 10).

All in all, the book covers 451 species of which 321 are illustrated. There are 1104 tree names in 21 indigenous languages. Cultivation and propagation notes are provided for 62 species.

This scholarly treatment of the Ugandan forest trees will be welcomed by botanists, foresters, conservationists and by people with an interest in forest biodiversity. I can highly recommend it.

Benny Bytebier