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# Notes on Indigenous Trees and Shrubs of S. Rhodesia

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## ***Terminalia sericea* Burch.** (Combretaceae)

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By A. A. PARDY, Conservator of Forests (Research).

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**Terminalia sericea** Burch.  
(Combretaceae)

**Common Names.**—Yellow-wood, mangwe. **Native Names.**—mususu, muhonono (Chis.)<sup>3</sup>; umangwe (Sind.).

**General Description.**—This is a common tree attaining to a height of about 30 feet. There are usually galls on this tree, which might be mistaken for fruits. The simple, opposite leaves, without stipules, are usually found crowded at the ends of twigs. They vary somewhat in size on different trees, but are always long and narrow with pointed ends and tapering bases. Characteristically, they are of a grey-green colour and especially so on the lower surfaces owing to fine, silky hairs. The midrib is prominent on both surfaces. Flowering takes place during October shortly after the new leaves appear. The small greenish-white flowers are in small pendulous racemes or bunches. The fruits, which become a pinkish colour, are flat and winged. The bark, of a grey-brown colour, is striated.

**Distribution.**—The mangwe forms one of the Colony's tree-veld types. This type covers extensive areas on the granite soils in the south-western part of the Colony between Gwelo and Plumtree, where the rainfall is about 20-25 inches per annum. It is also a common tree often growing gregariously along the upper slopes to vleis in the Kalahari sand forests between Bulawayo and the Victoria Falls. It is commonly associated with the mukarati (*Burkea africana*), which indeed at times may be more abundant than the mangwe. It appears very commonly as a scattered tree at medium and lower elevations in this Colony.

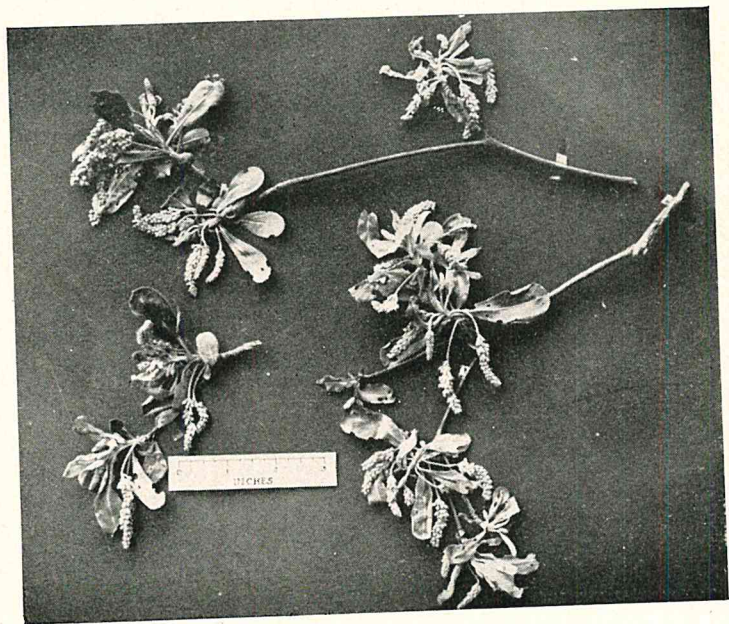
The mangwe also occurs in adjoining territories.

**Uses.**—The wood of a yellow colour is hard, and as the heartwood is not readily attacked by insects, it is frequently used as fence posts. It is also used for wagon work and hut building. It makes a good firewood.



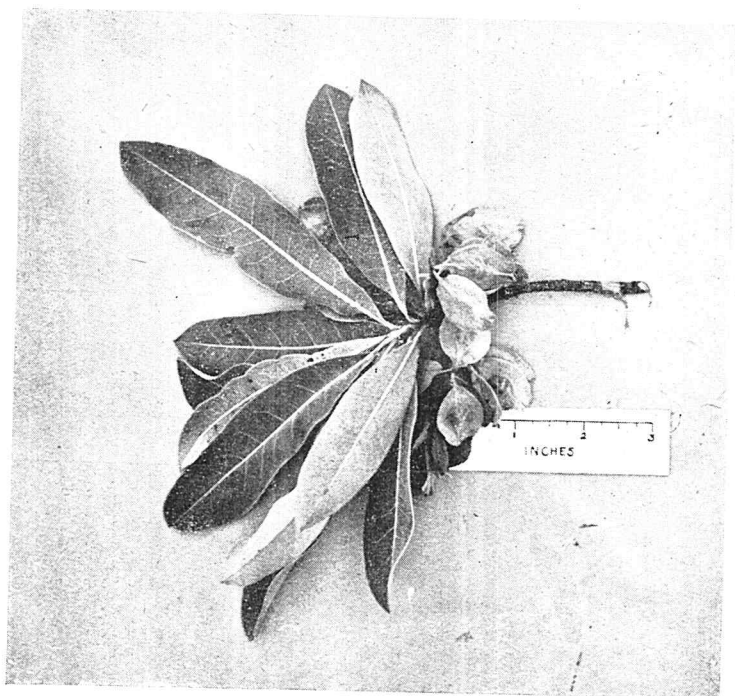
*Terminalia sericea.*  
Habit photo.

[Photo. by L. M. Hodgson]



*Terminalia sericea.*  
Young leaves and flowers.

[Photo. by A. A. Pardy.]



*Terminalia sericea.*  
Leaves and fruits.

[Photo. by A. A. Pardy.]