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Notes on Indigenous Trees and Shrubs of S. Rhodesia

Afrormosia angolensis

[Baker] Harms

[Papilionaceae]

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Afrormosia angolensis (Baker) Harms
(Papilionaceae)

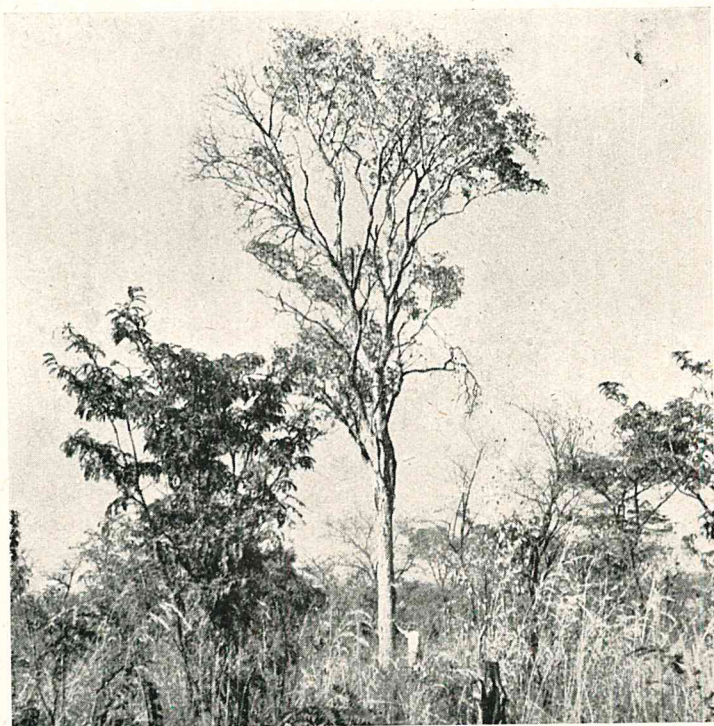
Common Names.—Muwanga. **Native Names.**—Muwanga, chivanga (Chis.); umbanga (Sind.).

General Description.—The muwanga is quite a large tree and may be found up to 70 feet in height. It can be readily recognised by its fairly smooth, rather light grey and somewhat flaky bark. The leaves, about 7 inches in length, are pinnate, with some nine alternate, or more or less alternate, short-stalked leaflets of an oval shape and usually with notched tips. They are up to 2 inches in length. There are small stipules which fall off fairly early. The twigs, leaf and leaflet stalks are noticeably covered with short brown hairs. The flowers, which are to be seen during October and November, are in terminal panicles, the stalks of which have a covering of short brown hairs. Each flower has conspicuously brown sepals and whitish to light-reddish petals with purple-coloured veins. The fruit is a flat and slightly winged pod up to 7 inches in length. It contains only a few seeds and frequently only one.

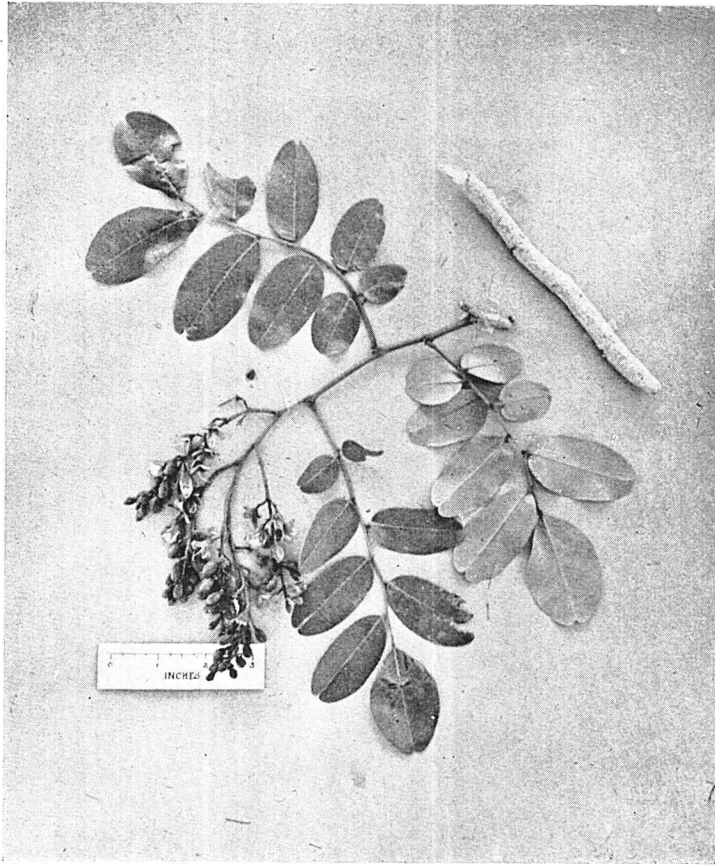
Distribution.—As a scattered tree the muwanga is fairly common at lower altitudes, where it is an associate of the mfuti in the better rainfall areas. It is found, for example, at lower elevations in the Umtali area and in the Banket and Shamva areas.

Its distribution is confined to Central Africa.

Uses.—The heartwood of this tree is of a dark greyish black colour and is very hard, heavy and durable. It is much prized by wheelwrights for felloes. On account of its durability and strength, it is used for fence posts and mining timber. To a limited extent it is used for furniture, although it is rather too hard and heavy for this purpose.

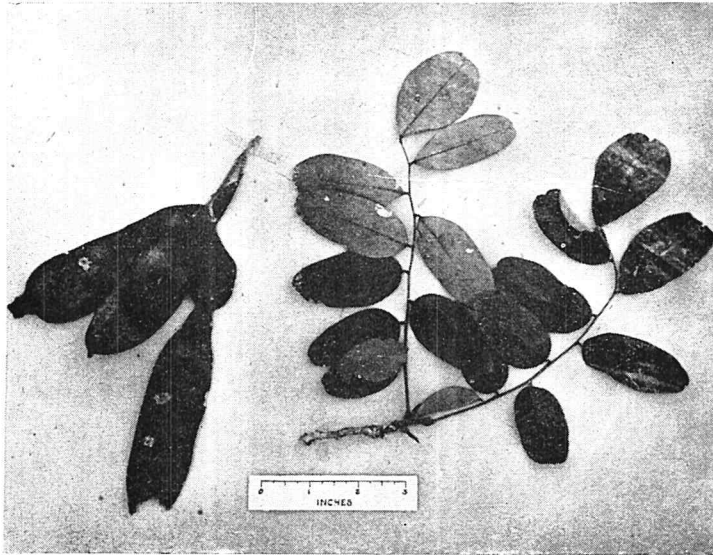


Afrormosia angolensis.
Habit photo.
Mfuti coppice growth in foreground.
[Photo. by A. A. Pardy.]



Afrosmosia angolensis.
Twigs, leaves and flowers.

[Photo. by A. A. Pardy.]



Afrosmosia angolensis.
Leaves and pods.

[Photo. by A. A. Pardy.]