

RECORDED AT
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Bulletin No. 1677

(Reprinted from "Rhodesia Agricultural Journal.")

Vol. 49, No. 5

September-October, 1952

Page 259

ISSUED BY AUTHORITY OF

The Minister of Agriculture and Lands

Notes on Indigenous Trees and Shrubs of S. Rhodesia

Vangueriopsis lanciflora

[Hiern] Robyns
[Rubiaceae]

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SALISBURY:

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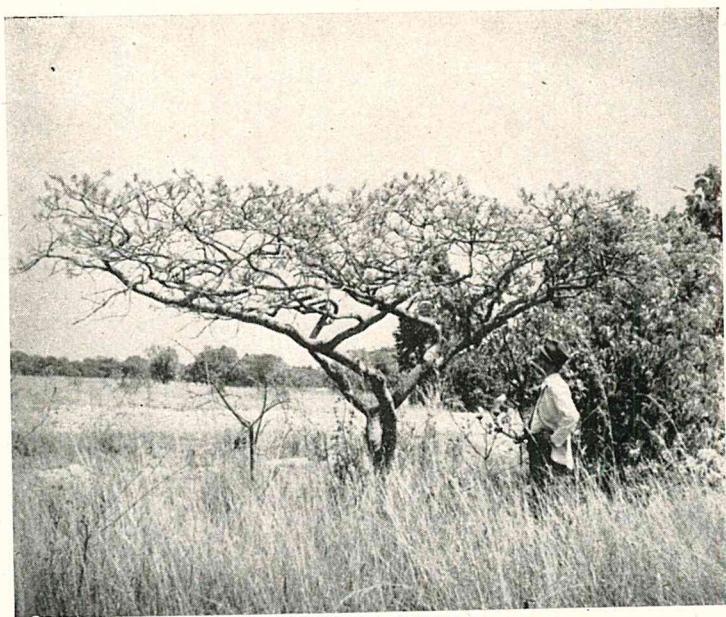
Vangueriopsis lanciflora (Hiern) Robyns
(Rubiaceae)

Common Name.—Wild medlar. **Native Names.**—Mutofu, mutufu (Chis.); (u) monsomonso, umosmoso (Sind.)

General Description.—This is a shrub or small tree up to about 12 feet in height. It has usually a flat, spreading top. The twigs are thick and the stem and branches have a reddish powdery coating. The short-stalked leaves are simple, opposite, somewhat pointed and without any indentations. The pinnate nervation is strongly marked especially on the under-surface, and the under-surface particularly is hairy. There are interpetiolar stipules. The leaves fall off towards the end of the dry season. The flowers appear during September and October immediately before the new leaves appear. The flowers are closely bunched on the twigs. They are long and narrow, and, when open, the free parts of the petals curve back. The fruits about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length are somewhat egg-shaped and are edible.

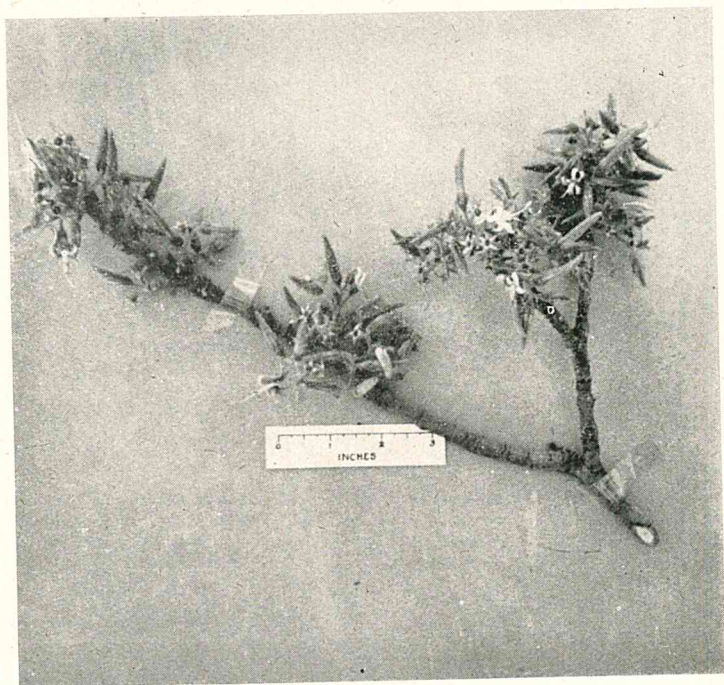
Distribution.—This shrubby tree is fairly widely distributed at medium elevations and is frequently gregarious. It is quite common in the msasa zone and may be seen, for example, in the Salisbury area. It also occurs in adjoining territories.

Uses.—No particular uses are known.



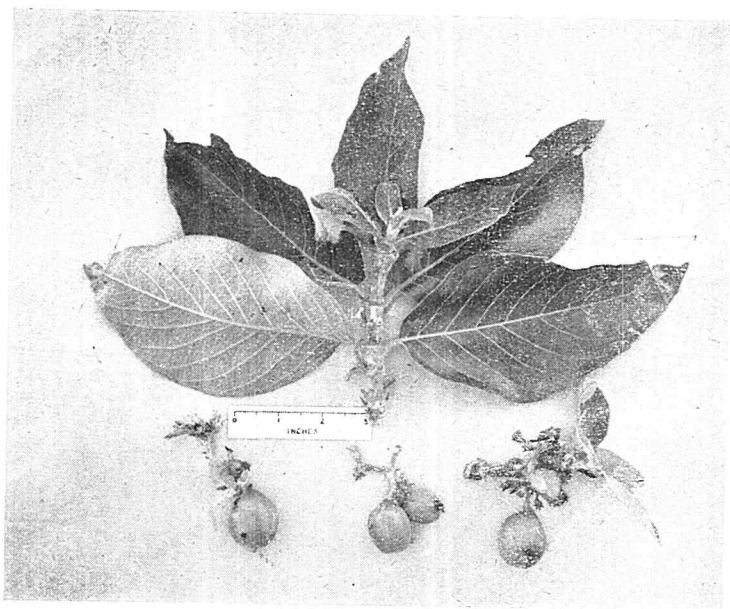
Vangueriopsis lanciflora.
Habit photo.
Flowering.

[Photo. by A. A. Pardy.]



Vangueriopsis lanciflora.
Flowers.

[Photo. by A. A. Pardy.]



Vangueriopsis lanciflora.
Leaves and fruit.

[Photo. by A. A. Pardy.]