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Page 4

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# Notes on Indigenous Trees and Shrubs of S. Rhodesia

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## *Albizza rhodesica* Burt Davy (Mimosaceae)

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2

*Albizzia* *rhodesica* Burt. Davy  
(Mimosaceae)

**Common Name:** Paper-bark tree.

**Native Names:** Mukusere, mukusire (Chis.); umpapama, umpapapa (Sind.).

**General Description:** This deciduous tree, which often has several stems, is readily recognised by its smooth whitish bark, which peels off in large papery sheets. It grows to a height of about 40 feet but is usually smaller than this. The large leaves, each with a gland on the leaf-stalk which is swollen at its junction with a twig, are alternate and bipinnate. There are 2-5 pairs of pinnae each of which has up to 14 pairs of hairless leaflets an inch or more in length. These leaflets have very short stalks and are of a somewhat obliquely oblong shape and pointed. The large yellowish-white fluffy flowers appear during September and October immediately before the new leaves appear. The fruits, which are flat, brownish coloured pods about 5 inches in length and one inch or more in width, each contain several hard, dark brown, oval-shaped seeds.

**Distribution:** This Paper-bark tree is frequently to be seen on rocky kopjes at lower elevations and is also to be seen, sometimes growing gregariously, in the Kalahari Sand formation in Matabeleland. It also occurs in territories immediately adjoining this Colony.

**Uses:** The wood, of a whitish colour, is soft and very light but no special use is known to be made of it. It might be suitable for boxes. The wood dust is said to cause irritation to the nose and throat. It can be grown from truncheons.

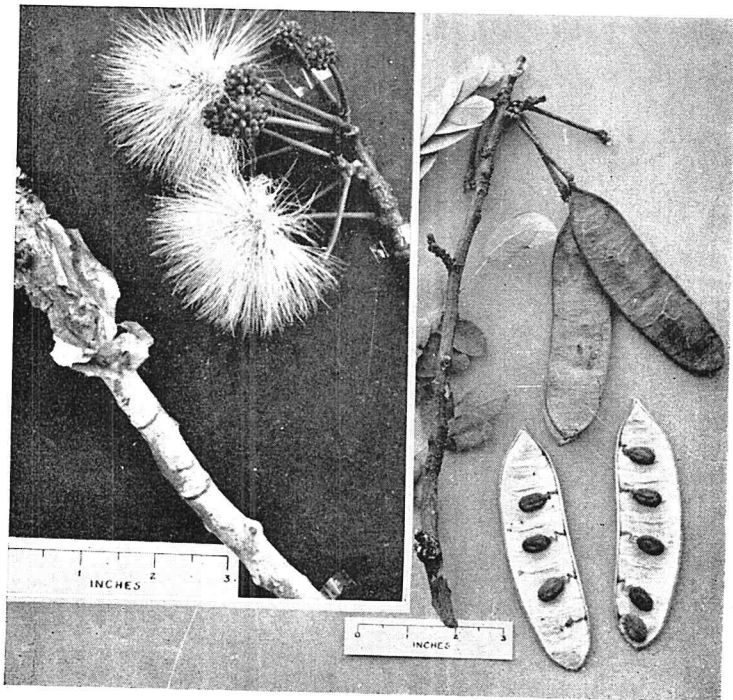


*Albizzia rhodesica*  
Habit photo. Tree flowering  
[Photo by E. J. Kelly Edwards]



*Albizzia rhodesica*  
Leaves

[Photo by A. A. Pardy]



*Albizzia rhodesica*  
Showing flowers, pods, seeds and twig with white bark peeling off  
in one portion

[Photo by A. A. Pardy]