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# Notes on Indigenous Trees and Shrubs of S. Rhodesia

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## Combretum zeyheri Sond. (Combretaceae)

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

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**Combretum zeyheri** Sond.  
(Combretaceae)

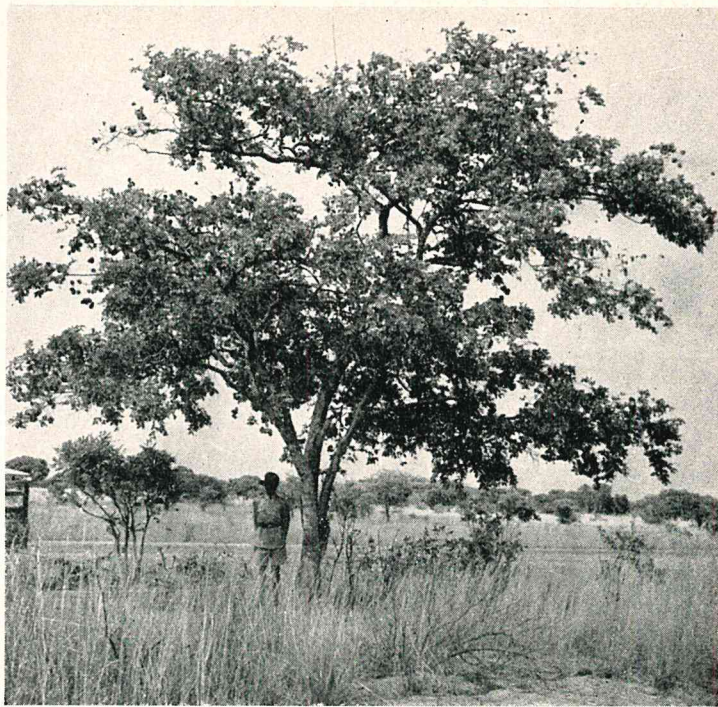
**Common Name:** Large-fruited Combretum.

**Native Names:** Muruka, mutembere (Chis.); umbula, umbondo (Sind.).

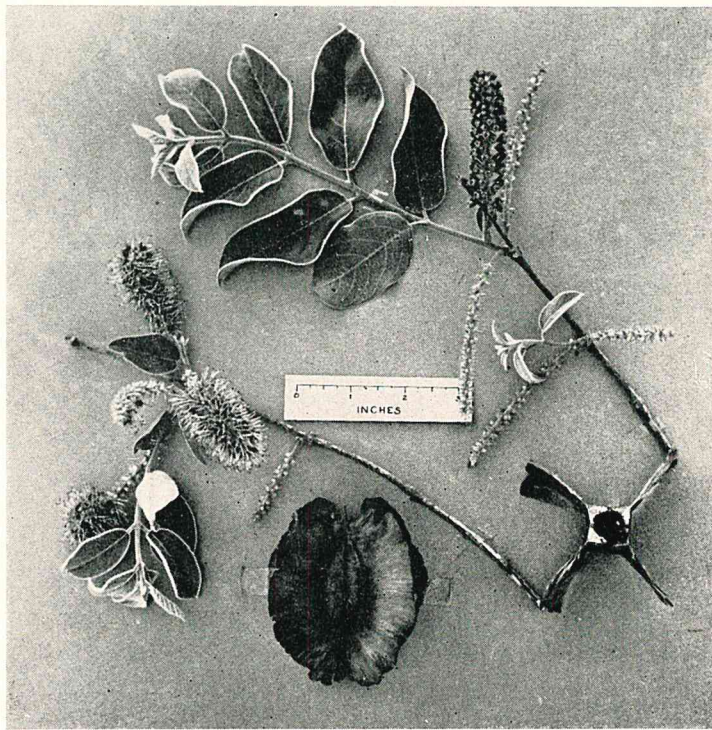
**General Description:** This Combretum grows to a height of about 25 feet and has a rounded crown. It is readily recognised by its large four-winged fruits. The simple leaves, which are softly hairy when young, are usually 3-4 inches in length and are in opposite pairs or whorls of three. The short petioles, or leaf stalks, like the twigs, have a coating of soft grey hairs. The blade of the leaf is of an oblong-elliptical shape. There are short hairs along the mid-rib and veins of the under surface of the leaf. The midrib is channelled above and prominent below. There are no stipules present. The yellowish-green, scented flowers, which are to be seen mainly during October, are in catkin-like spikes. The four-winged fruits are approximately 2 inches in length and of a light brown colour when ripe. Each fruit contains one seed. The bark, which is fairly smooth, is of a greyish colour.

**Distribution:** As a scattered tree this Combretum is of fairly common occurrence in this Colony at medium and lower elevations. It also occurs in adjoining territories.

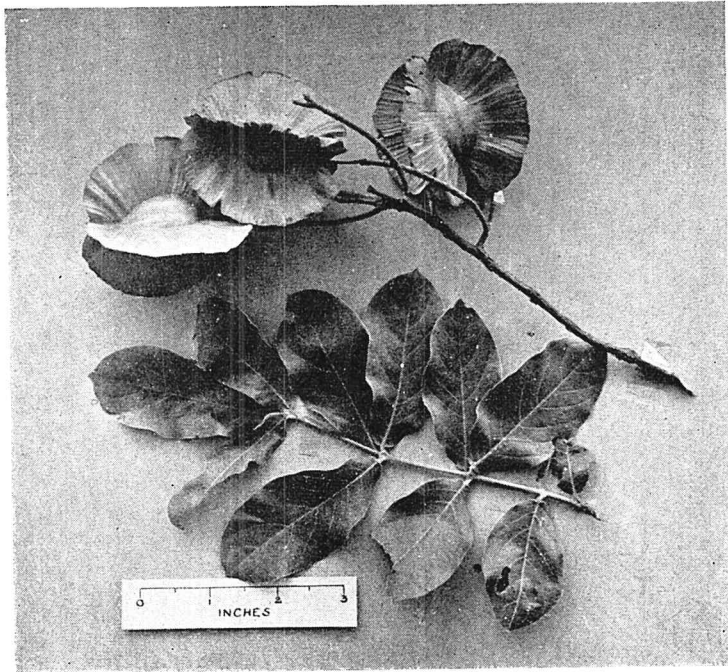
**Uses:** No special use is known to be made of the yellowish wood of this tree. Natives utilise the roots for basket making.



*Combretum zeyheri*  
Habit photo  
Tree has a good crop of fruits  
[Photo by A. A. Pardy]



*Combretum zeyheri*  
Twigs with flowers and young leaves, and a mature fruit. A cross-section of part of a fruit to show the four wings is also included  
[Photo by A. A. Pardy]



*Combretum zeyheri*  
Leaves and fruits

[Photo by A. A. Pardy