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Notes on Indigenous Trees and Shrubs of Southern Rhodesia

Sterculia quinqueloba (Garcke) K. Schum. (Sterculiaceae)

By A. A. PARDY, Chief Research Officer, Forestry Commission.

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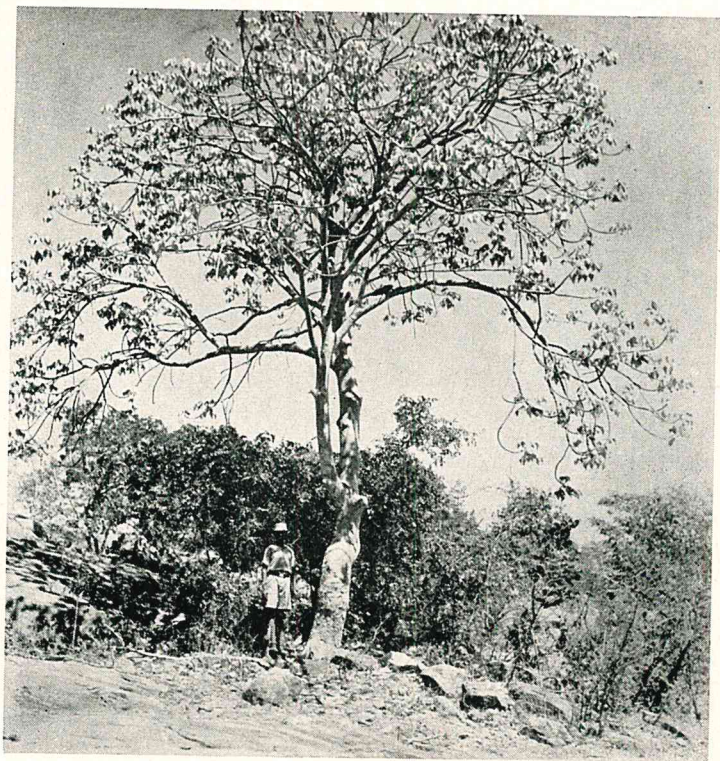
Sterculia quinqueloba (Garcke) K. Schum. (Sterculiaceae)

Common Name.— *Native Names*.—Mugoza, mungoza, murere, mutedza, mutondoshure (Chis.); Umkukubuyu, umkahana (Sind.).

General Description.—This *sterculia*, a tree up to 60 ft. in height, is conspicuous on account of its smooth pinkish-white bark which has a tendency to flake, and also on account of its large lobed leaves. Leaves turn a noticeably yellow colour before they fall during the earlier part of the dry season. The leaves are alternate and five-lobed, the lobes being pointed. The leaf stalk, which has a coating of soft hairs, varies in length up to 8 ins. and the leaf blade, which is green on the upper surface and densely covered with small soft grey hairs on the lower surface, varies in length and is up to a width of about 9 ins. The reticulate venation is very conspicuous on the under surface. The flowers, which are to be seen mainly during December, are yellowish and individually inconspicuous, and are in elongated bunches or panicles. They are either male or female. The fruits are usually groups of four or five foliicles, somewhat resembling canoes when open. They are up to 2 ins. in length and densely covered with short brown hairs. Each contains two or three seeds.

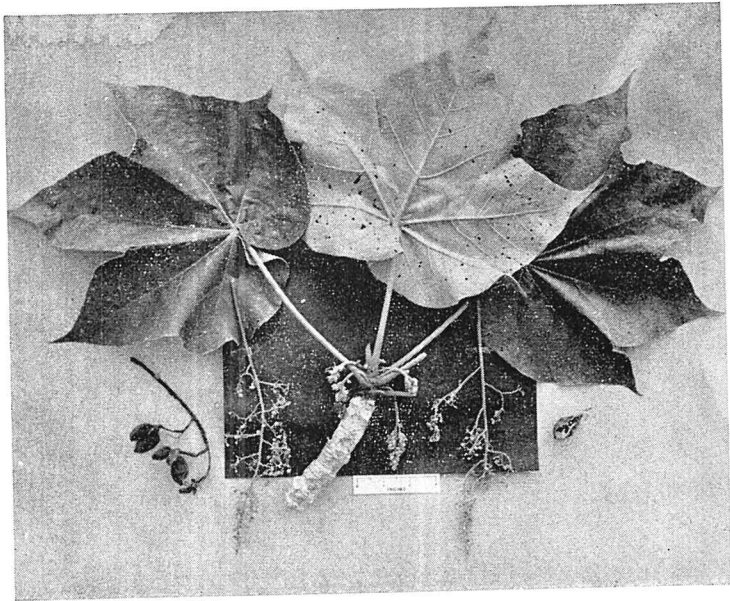
Distribution.—This tree is to be seen in areas of medium and lower elevation in this Colony and usually in rocky areas. It is also found in adjacent territories.

Uses.—The heart wood is of a reddish brown colour and is occasionally used for the making of furniture. It is stated to be used to a certain extent for mining and general construction in Tanganyika.



Sterculia quinqueloba.
Habit photo.

[Photo by P. Banks.]



Sterculia quinqueloba.
Leaves, flowers and fruits.
[Photo by A. A. Pardy.]