

Duplicates

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Page 172

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Notes on Indigenous Trees and Shrubs of Southern Rhodesia

Pseudocadia zambesiaca

(Bak.) Harms

(Papilionaceae)

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

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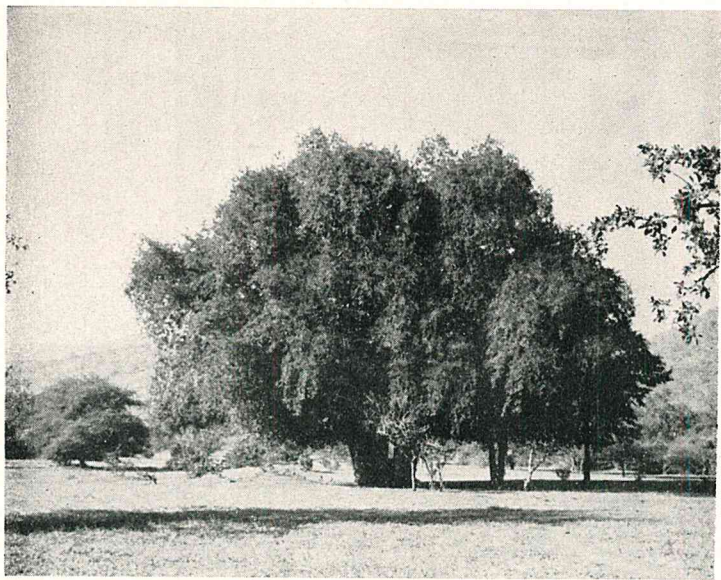
Pseudocadia zambesiaca (Bak.) Harms
(Papilionaceae)

Common Name.—Mutsha. *Native Names.*—Muchetuchetu, musharo, mutsha (Chis.).

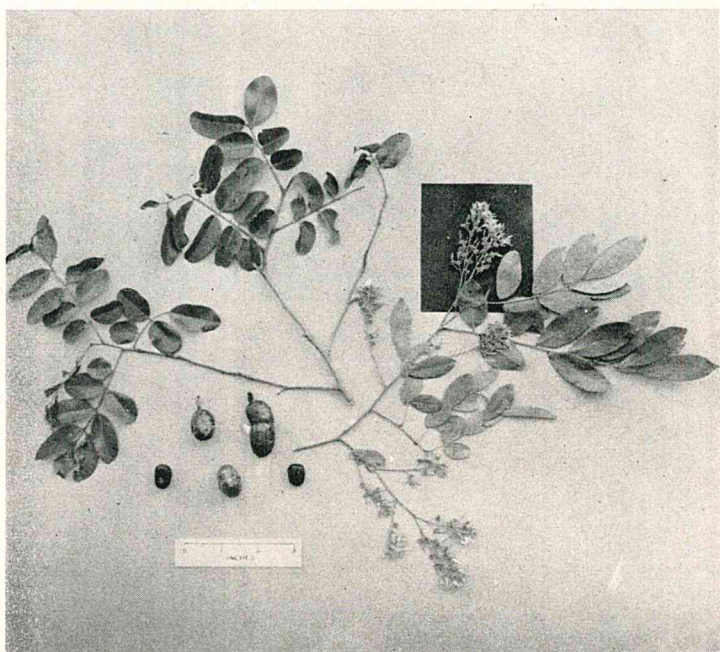
General Description.—The mutsha is a much-branched tree with a large rounded crown. It is commonly about 35-40 feet in height with a thick, branched trunk. The shape and dark green foliage of this tree make it readily recognisable. Where ground moisture conditions are adequate, such as in the vicinity of rivers, this tree is usually evergreen but in drier situations it is liable to be more or less deciduous. The stipulate leaves, which are about 4 inches in length, are alternate and imparipinnate. There are small soft hairs on the leaf-stalk. Each leaf usually has up to eleven leaflets although sometimes there may be more. The terminal leaflet is largest. The leaflets, which have short hairy stalks, may be either alternate or more or less opposite, and are of an oval shape with notched tips. The upper surfaces of leaflets are dark green, shiny and usually hairless, whereas the lower surfaces are paler and have some hairs, especially along the prominent mid-rib. The small whitish flowers, which are to be seen mainly from the end of October to early December, are in small axillary and terminal sprays or racemes. The fruit, which is exceptional for this botanical family, is a one- or, occasionally, two-seeded, stalked, brown, shiny drupe. The seed is a thick, hard, black bean a little over $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch long.

Distribution.—This tree occurs scattered in areas of lower elevation in the south-eastern portion of this Colony. Trees may be seen, for example, along the road in the Sabi Valley in the vicinity of Hot Springs. It is found also in the Union as far south as Zululand, and in adjoining parts of Portuguese East Africa.

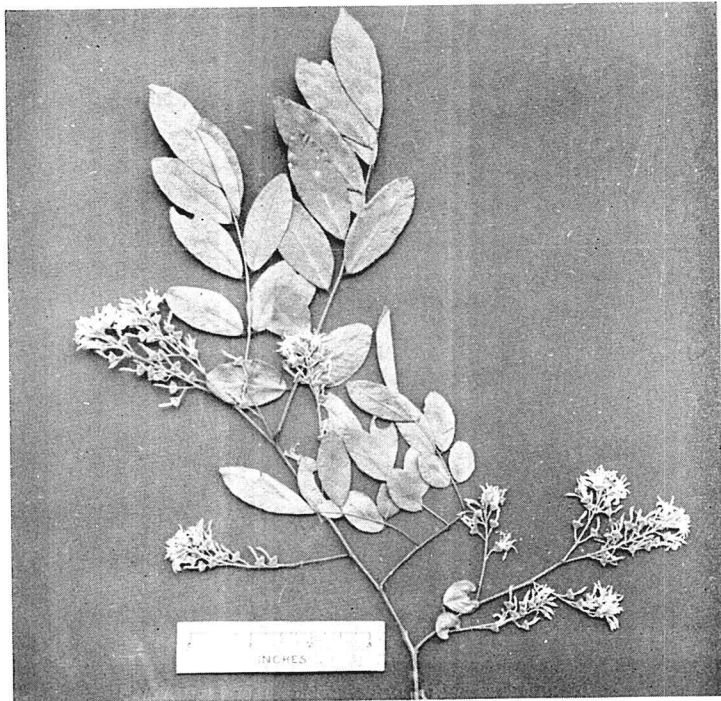
Uses.—No special use is known to be made of the hard greyish wood. The dust from it is said to be irritating to nose and throat. Buck. monkeys and birds are stated to be very fond of the fruits. The dense shade is a favourite retreat of animals during hot days.



Pseudocadia zambesiaca
Habit photo of tree approximately 40 ft. high.
[Photo by R. A. Jubb.]



Pseudocadia zambesiaca
Leaves, flowers and fruits.
[Photo by A. A. Pardy.]



Pseudocadia zambesiaca
Leaves and flowers.

[Photo by A. A. Pardy.]