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Notes on Indigenous Trees and Shrubs of S. Rhodesia

Strychnos pungens Solered
(Loganiaceae)

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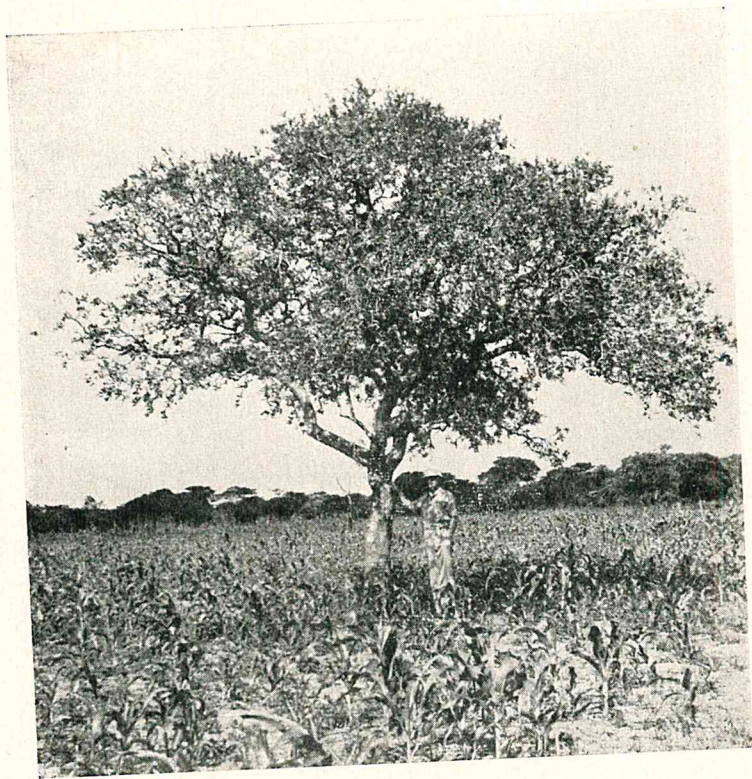
Strychnos pungens Solered
(Loganiaceae)

Common Name.—Kaffir orange. **Native Names.**—Mugwadi, mungono, mutamba (Chis.); umgwati. (Sind.).

General Description.—This Kaffir orange, which like other Kaffir oranges is in no way related to the true orange, is a small, thornless, evergreen tree up to about twenty feet in height and having a fairly spreading crown. The leaves are very distinctive. They are decussate (i.e., opposite, with each pair at right angles to the pair immediately above or below) and each thick, leathery, hairless leaf, about 2 inches in length, is of an oval shape with a short leaf-stalk and a rigid spinous tip. Each leaf has three or five distinct veins. The small yellowish-green, scented flowers, which are to be seen at the beginning of the rainy season, are in small clusters on old wood. The round hard-shelled fruits are usually fully three inches in diameter and yellow when ripe. They contain many seeds. The bark is of a greyish colour and fairly smooth.

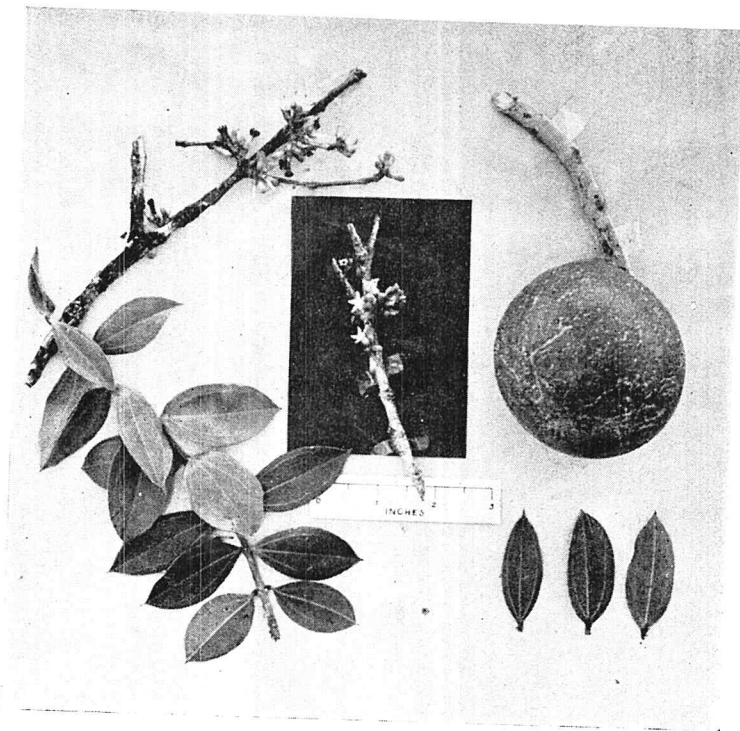
Distribution.—This Kaffir orange occurs in the Midlands area and in Matabeleland where it is common on the Kalahari Sand Formation, and it also occurs in adjoining territories.

Uses.—No special uses are known other than that the rather tasteless pulp of the fruit is eaten by natives who often leave this tree when clearing land for crops. The seeds are poisonous. Unripe fruits are said to produce vomiting, headache and giddiness if eaten.



Strychnos pungens
Habit photo

[Photo by A. A. Pardy.]



Strychnos pungens
Leaves, flowers and fruit.

[Photo by A. A. Pardy.]