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Notes on Indigenous Trees and Shrubs of S. Rhodesia

Anthocleista zambesiaca Bak.
(Loganiaceae)

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

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Anthocleista zambesiaca Bak.

(Loganiaceae)

Common Name.—Big-leaf tree, Fever tree. **Native Names.**—Garuro, mugopopo, muzama, muzana (Chis.).

General Description.—This is an evergreen tree up to about 70 feet in height and having a grey, fairly smooth, striated bark. The large, simple, entire, and smooth, hairless leaves are bunched at the ends of fairly thick, brittle branchlets bearing distinct scars of former leaves. In the case of a large tree leaves are up to 2½ feet in length and about 10 inches wide. Leaves of young trees may be up to 4 feet in length. The leaves are decussate (i.e., opposite, with each pair at right angles to the pair above or below) and of a somewhat oval shape with a rounded tip, and tapering towards the leaf-stalk. The leaf-stalk is short and amplexicaul, i.e., its base embraces the twig. The midribs and veins are conspicuous. Flowering takes place about November, the large loose inflorescences consisting of many large flowers of a creamy colour. The fruit, which has a hard, brown shell when ripe, is of a long oval shape and about 1½ inches in length. Each fruit contains many small seeds.

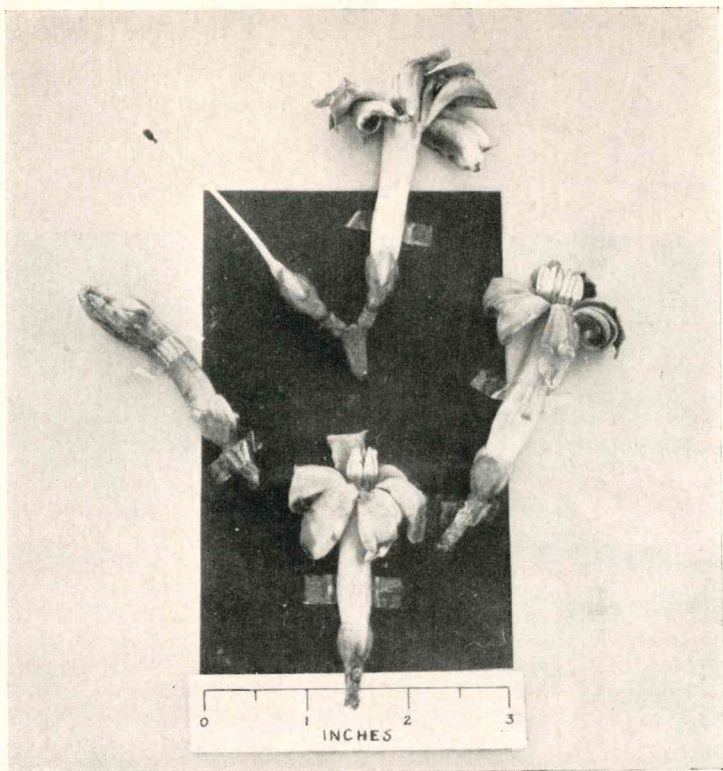
Distribution.—The Big-leaf tree is found in the lower mist-belt area of the Eastern Border and may be seen, for example, in the Mount Silinda area. It also occurs in adjoining territories to the east and south.

Uses.—The timber, of a whitish-yellow colour, is soft, of light weight and not durable. No uses are known but it might be suitable as a wood for boxes. A decoction of the bark is said to be used by natives in the Northern Transvaal as a remedy for malaria. It is of fast growth when young and is said to be easily raised from seed. It is rather frost tender.



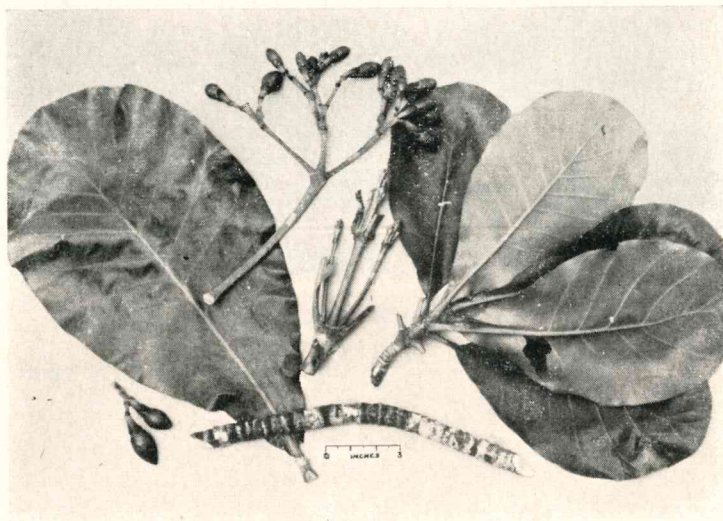
Anthocleista zambesiaca
Habit photo

[Photo by A. A. Pardy.]



Anthocleista zambesiaca
Flowers.

[Photo by A. A. Pardy.]



Anthocleista zambesiaca
Branchlet showing leaf-scars, leaves and
fully grown but immature fruits.

[Photo by A. A. Pardy.]