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Page 273

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Notes on Indigenous Trees and Shrubs of S. Rhodesia

Rauvolfia inebrians K. Schum.
(Apocynaceae)

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Rauvolfia inebrians K. Schum.

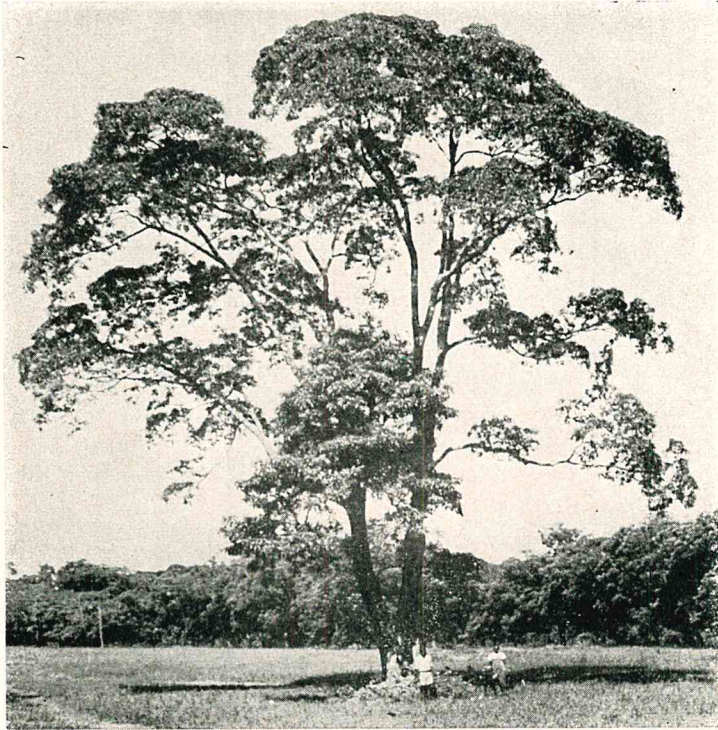
(Apocynaceae)

Common Name.— **Native Names.**—Dzurungu, mukadhwa, mukaururu, muzungurwi (Chis.).

General Description.—This is a tree attaining to a height of about 70 feet with brownish-yellow and fairly roughish bark and a milky latex. The leaves, in whorls of 4-6, are clustered at the ends of twigs. Leaf-stalks are about 1 inch long and the blade of the leaf, which is entire, is long, narrow and pointed, the whole leaf being up to 10 inches long. The upper surface of the leaf is dark green, shiny and hairless, whereas the lower surface is paler. The mid-rib is conspicuous on both surfaces. There are no stipules. The flowers are small and white, and occur in loose clusters. Flowering occurs about October. The fruit is a dark green drupe about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter.

Distribution.—The *Rauvolfia* is common in the Eastern Border area, e.g., at Mount Silinda and the Vumba. To a much more limited extent it occurs in Mashonaland, usually as a river bank tree. It occurs in adjoining territories to the north and east.

Uses.—The timber is of a yellowish-white colour and is easily worked. It is used by natives for carving spoons and bowls, and is occasionally used as a furniture wood. It can be propagated from seed or truncheons and grows fairly rapidly. It makes a good shade tree, being more or less evergreen.



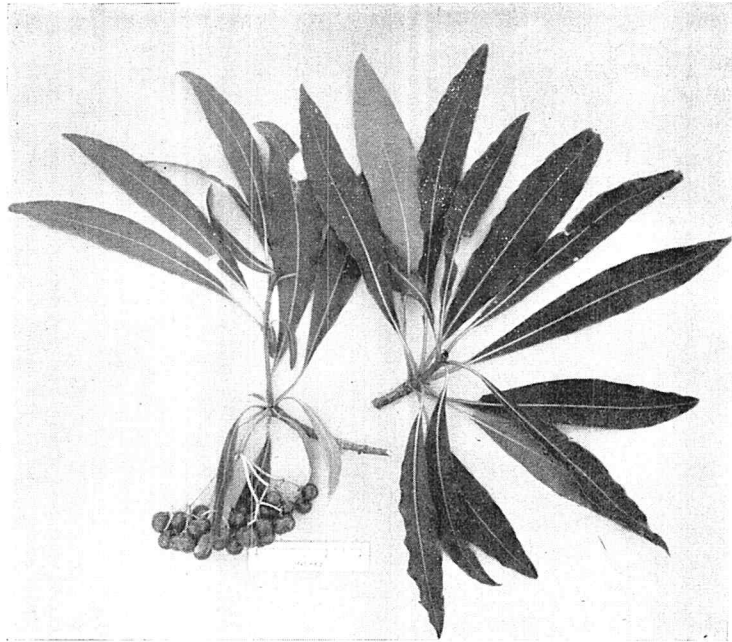
Rawolfia inebrians
Habit photo.

[Photo by J. Heinrich



Rauwolfia inebrians
Leaves and flowers.

[Photo by A. A. Pardy.]



Rauwolfia inebrians
Leaves and immature fruit.

[Photo by A. A. Pardy.]