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# **Notes on Indigenous Trees and Shrubs of S. Rhodesia**

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**Acacia subalata** Vatke  
(Mimosaceae)

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**Acacia subalata** Vatke  
(Mimosaceae)

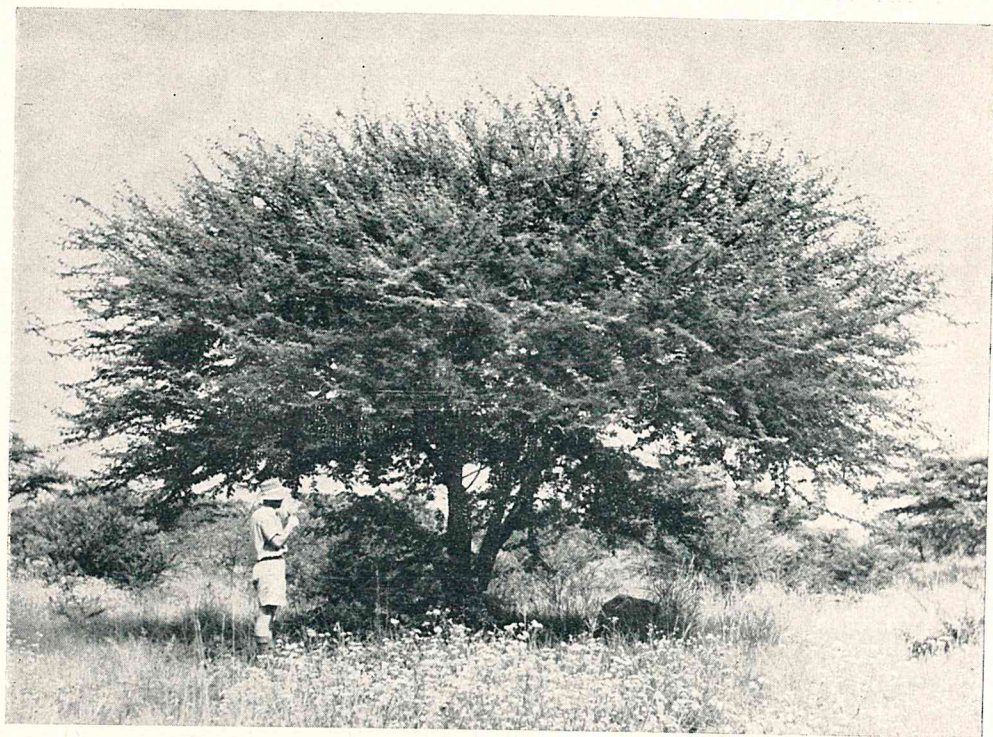
**Common Name.**—Reukpeul. **Native Name.**—Isangawe.

**General Description.**—This tree was previously known as *Acacia benthamii* Rochbr. and *A. arabica* var. *kraussiana* Benth. It is normally a tree up to about 15 feet in height with a roundish or fairly flat crown and a dark brown to blackish bark. The leaves are small, being up to about 1½ inches long. There are 3-12 pairs of pinnae with numerous very small pinnules or leaflets. The slender stipular spines up to 2 inches in length are straight or very slightly curved and are directed slightly downwards. The bright yellow, scented, flower balls are to be seen at the beginning of the rainy season. The straight, or slightly curved, flattish pods are 4-5 inches long. As they are constricted between the seeds they have a jointed appearance. When ripe the pods are black, soft-skinned, wrinkled, contain a sugary substance and are sweetly scented. They contain tannin.

**Distribution.**—This is a common tree of the middle thornveld in this Colony. It is widely distributed in Africa, being found in the Union to as far north as Uganda and possibly even further north.

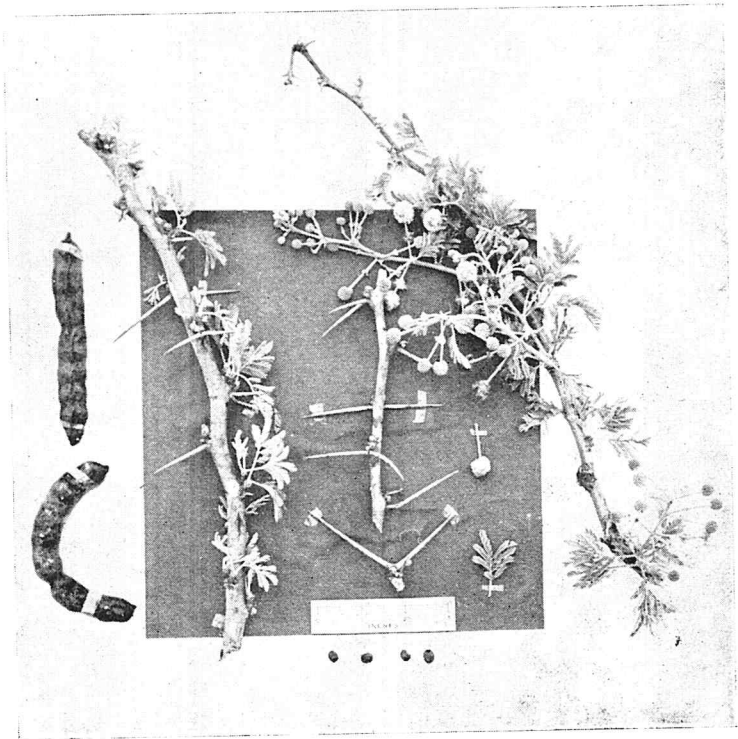
**Uses.**—The wood, of a reddish colour, is hard and durable and so is useful for fence posts. It makes good fuel wood. A gum, which is stated to be useful as an adhesive and for confectionery, is obtained from stem exudations. Cattle and game greatly relish the pods and the tree itself for shade as its habit of growth and close-textured crown are admirable for this purpose.





*Acacia subalata.*  
Habit photo.

[Photo by A. A. Pardy



*Acacia subalata.*  
Showing twigs, spines, leaves, flowers and pods.  
[Photo by A. A. Pardy