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# Notes on Indigenous Trees and Shrubs of Southern Rhodesia

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**Ormocarpum bibracteatum**  
(Steud. ex A. Rich.) Bak.  
(Syn. **O. kirkii** S. Moore) and  
**O. trichocarpum** (Taub.) Harms

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**Ormocarpum bibracteatum** (Steud. ex A. Rich.) Bak.

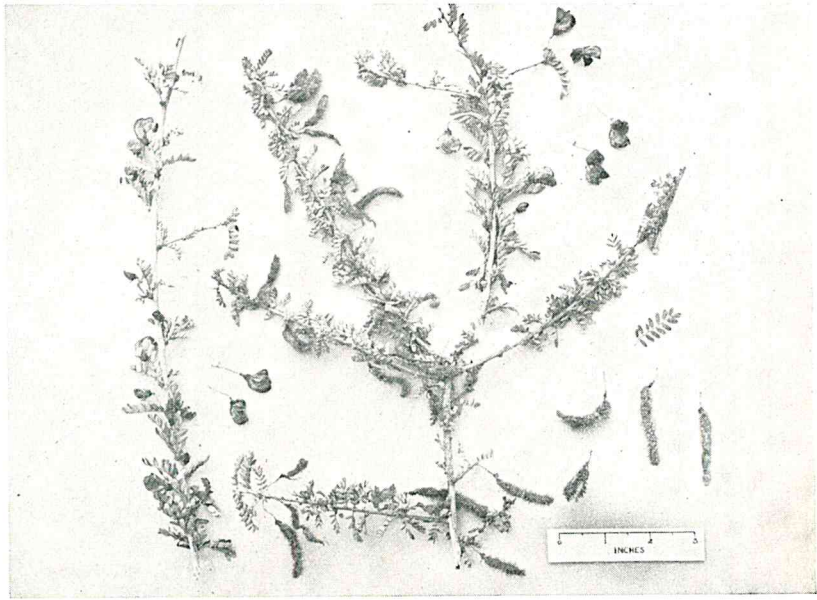
(Syn. **O. kirkii** S. Moore) and **O. trichocarpum** (Taub.) Harms

**Common Name.**— **Native Names.**—Muswutaderere  
(Chis.); Umnyadza (Sind.).

**General Description.**—These two species of *Ormocarpum* are shrubs or small trees up to about 15 feet in height. In general appearance they are rather similar. *O. bibracteatum* is usually larger in size of plant, size of leaves and size of flowers, and it has densely glandular hairy pods whereas the pods of *O. trichocarpum* are densely covered with brownish bristles. The small leaflets of these two species give them, when not in flower, somewhat the appearance of *Acacias*. The leaves, up to about two inches in length and clustered on short shoots, are imparipinnate, alternate and stipulate. There are nine or more leaflets to each leaf, each leaflet being up to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch long in the case of *O. bibracteatum* and about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in the case of *O. trichocarpum*. The leaflets are of a somewhat oblong shape with usually a minute point at the tip of each. The fairly large pea-like purple (*O. bibracteatum*) or blue or mauve flowers are in evidence mainly during the rainy season. They appear singly or in small groups in the leaf clusters. The narrow pods, up to two inches in length, are densely covered with glandular hairs (*O. bibracteatum*) or bristles. The bark is a greyish white on younger plants and blackish and rough on older plants.

**Distribution.**—Both species are widely distributed but neither is as a rule common. Occasionally, however, they are common either growing singly or in groups, e.g. between Enkeldoorn and Umvuma. One or other or both occur in adjoining territories.

**Uses.**—No special uses are known. The leaves are sometimes browsed.



*Ormocarpum trichocarpum*

Leaves, flowers and pods.

[Photo by: A. A. Pardy.]