

A-18
RECORDED AT
H.O.

D

Bulletin No. 1882

(Reprinted from "Rhodesia Agricultural Journal")

Vol. 53, No. 2

March-April, 1956

Pages 216-217

ISSUED BY AUTHORITY OF
The Ministry of Agriculture

**Notes on Indigenous Trees and
Shrubs of Southern Rhodesia**

Tamarindus indica L.
(Caesalpiaceae)

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

Printed by the Government Printer, Salisbury.

Tamarindus indica L.

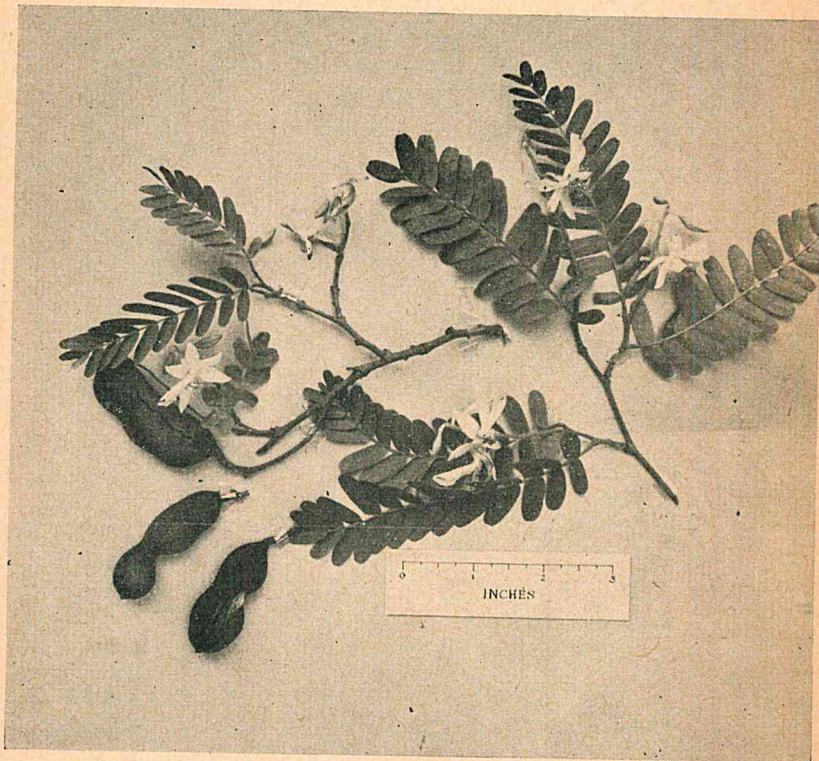
(Caesalpiniaceae)

Common Name.—Tamarind. **Native Names.**—Museka, musika (Chis.).

General Description.—This is a tree up to 70 feet with usually a fairly compact, rounded crown. The leaves are alternate, paripinnate and up to 6 inches long. Each leaf usually consists of 9 - 15 opposite, glabrous, grey-green leaflets of an oblong shape. Flowers, which are of a yellowish and pinkish colour and about an inch in width, are in small racemes. Flowering occurs during the earlier part of the rainy season. Pods vary somewhat in size and shape but are commonly of a more or less oblong shape, are up to 4 inches in length and frequently slightly curved. The shell of the pod is brittle and inside it contains a sticky, edible pulp. The bark is rough and of a greyish colour.

Distribution.—In this Colony the Tamarind occurs mainly in the Zambezi Valley area. It is also found in the Inyanga North Reserve near the Matizi River. It occurs in adjoining territories to the north as far as the Sudan.

Uses.—The dark-brown heartwood weighs about 58 lb. per cubic foot air dry. It is hard, tough and difficult to work but takes a good polish. It is liable to crack during seasoning. It is stated to produce a good charcoal and in the Sudan to be useful for carpentry, ship-building, carts, pestles and mortars. The fruit is stated to provide a cooling drink of value for fevers and as a laxative.



Tamarindus indica
Leaves, flowers and fruit.

[Photo by: A. A. Pardy.]