

1. PE
RECORDED
H.C.
D

Bulletin No. 1897

(Reprinted from "Rhodesia Agricultural Journal")

Vol. 53, No. 4.

July-August, 1956.

Pages 507-524.

ISSUED BY AUTHORITY OF
The Minister of Agriculture and Lands

Notes on Indigenous Trees and Shrubs of Southern Rhodesia

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

Printed by the Government Printer, Salisbury.

Acacia gerrardii Benth.

(Mimosaceae)

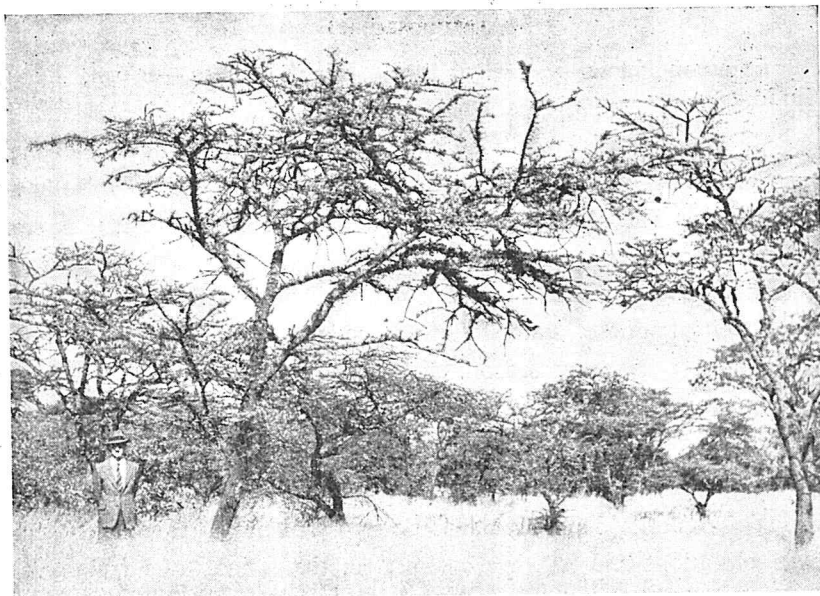
Common Name.—
(Sind.).

Native Names.—Isinga, ilikope

General Description.—This is a tree commonly about 25 feet high but which may be found to a height of about 40 feet with typically an open crown. The alternate leaves up to about 3 inches in length, consist of 8-10 pairs of pinnae and each pinna has up to about 20 pairs of small leaflets. Paired stipular spines are about an inch long. The small white, globose, stalked flower heads are to be seen about the beginning of the rainy season. The narrow sickle-shaped pods, like the young twigs, are covered with greyish hairs. Each pod contains several seeds. The bark of the young trees is fairly smooth but becomes fairly rough in the case of older trees.

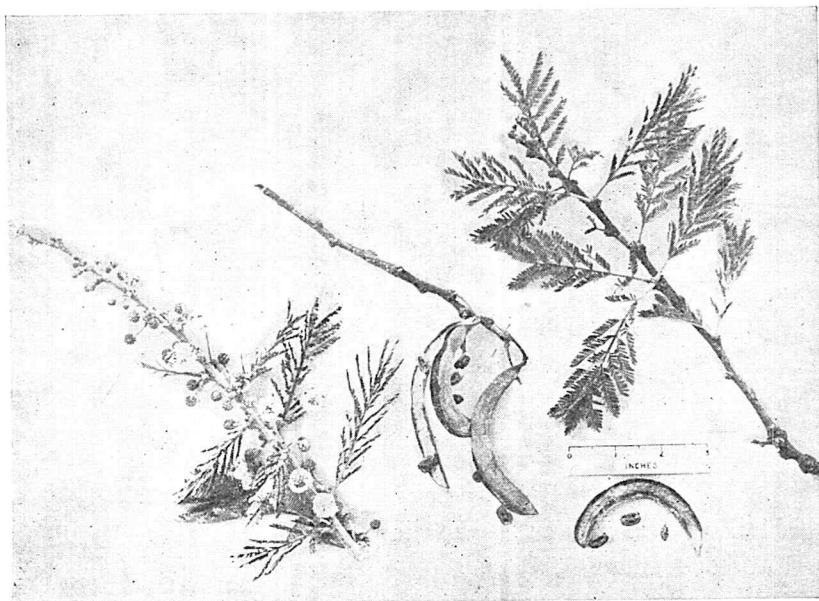
Distribution.—This acacia is fairly widespread at medium and lower elevations and is fairly common in the vicinity of Salisbury. It occurs in adjoining territories.

Uses.—No special uses are known. The wood is soft and of little value.



Acacia gerardii
Habit photo

[Photo by: A. A. Pardy.]



Acacia gerardii
Leaves, flowers, pods and seeds

[Photo by: A. A. Pardy.]

Amblygonocarpus obtusangulus Harms.

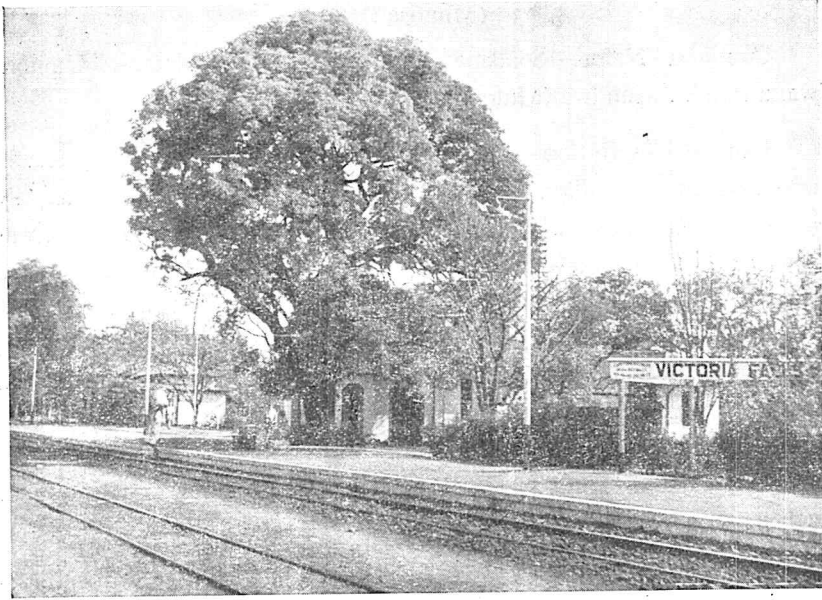
(Mimosaceae)

Common Name.—Scotsman's Rattle. **Native Names.**—Umnonjwana (Sind.), Mululwe (Mutonga).

General Description.—This is a tree usually up to about 50 feet in height but may be taller. The alternate bipinnate leaves consist usually of two to three pairs of pinnae, each pinna having about 14 glabrous leaflets of an oblong shape and about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long. Each leaflet has a thin stalk about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch in length. The light creamy-yellow flowers, to be seen about September and October, are usually in paired racemes each up to 3 inches in length. The hard, woody pod 4-6 inches in length is more or less square in cross-section. It hangs from a stalk and when ripe is a dark, glossy, chestnut-brown. Seeds rattle when ripe pods are shaken. The bark is a blackish brown colour and somewhat scaly.

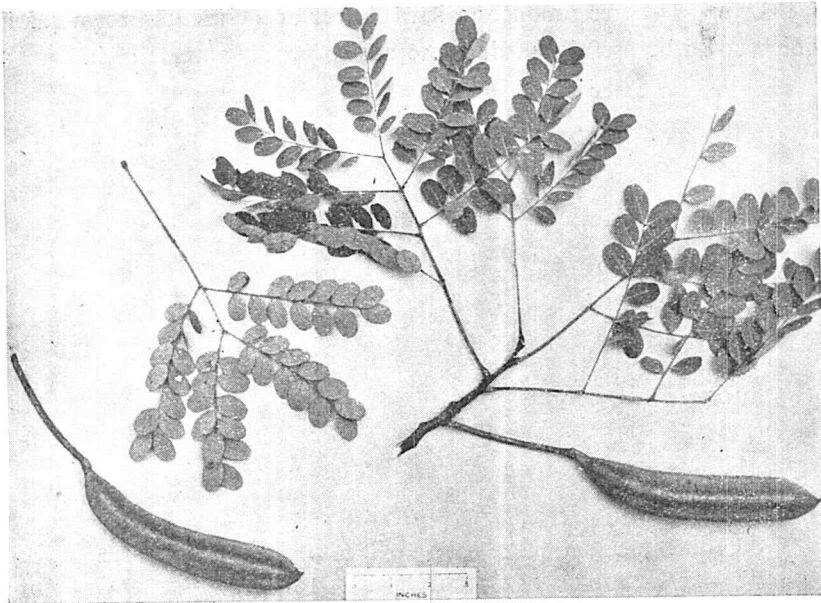
Distribution.—*A. obtusangulus* is found as a somewhat scattered tree in the north-western portion of S. Rhodesia, and a specimen is to be seen at the Victoria Falls station. At the Victoria Falls it is usually known by the N. Rhodesian native name of mubaimbai. It is found northwards as far as Uganda.

Uses.—The tree produces a hard timber of a chestnut-brown colour which could be useful, but little use has so far been made of it.



Amblygonocarpus obtusangulus
Habit photo of tree at Victoria Falls station

[Photo by: L. M. Hodgson.]



Amblygonocarpus obtusangulus

Leaves and pods

[Photo by: J. G. Judge.]

Diospyros batocana Hiern.
(Ebenaceae)

Common Name.—

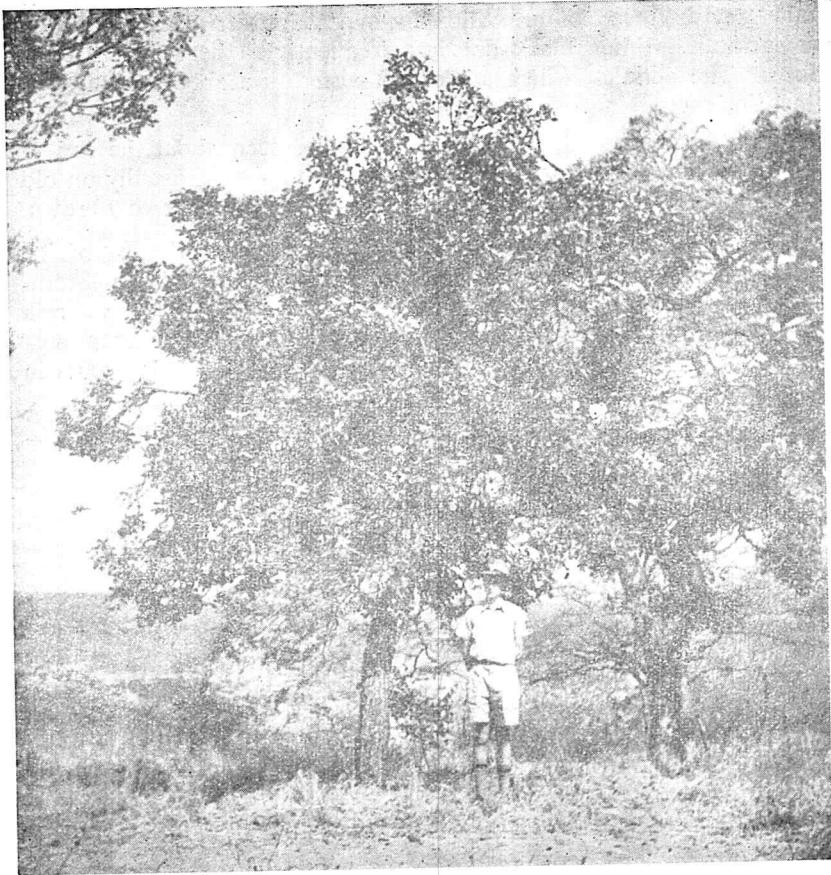
Native Names.—Muchenje (Chis.).

General Description.—This is a small tree up to about 20 feet high with a rounded crown and thick, rough, reticulated blackish bark. The blades of the leaves are leathery, simple, alternate, of an elliptical shape, shiny and more or less rounded at each end. They are about $2\frac{1}{2}$ -3 inches in length. Upper surfaces are dark green and lower surfaces a pale greyish-green colour. Mid-ribs and veins are conspicuous on both surfaces. Minute black dots are frequently to be seen on lower surfaces. The petioles, which are often twisted, are about one-fifth of an inch in length.

The sweet-scented flowers, which are to be seen about the end of the dry season, are in dark brown clusters on branches—usually on old wood. The fruits are up to 2 inches in length, globose and velvety brown.

Distribution.—This tree occurs mainly in the general area of the Zambesi Valley. It may be seen in the Victoria Falls area. The accompanying habit photo is of a tree at the edge of a path near the Victoria Falls Hotel trolley station. At the Victoria Falls the native name most commonly used is the N. Rhodesian name of Mujongola. It occurs in N. Rhodesia.

Uses.—No special uses are known.



Diospyros batocana
Habit photo

[Photo by: A. A. Pardy.]



Diospyros batocana
Leaves and flowers

[Photo by: A. A. Pardy.]

Hypericum leucoptychodes Steud.

(Hypericaceae)

Common Name.—St. John's wort. **Native Names.**—Ruhurukuruu (Chis.).

General Description.—This plant is usually a shrub. It grows commonly in clumps to a height of about 8 feet, but occasionally may be found as a small tree. Leaves, strikingly in four rows, are narrow, pointed and about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in length, and are in opposite pairs. There are no leaf stalks. The yellow flowers are terminal and about 2 inches in diameter when open. The fruit is a capsule containing minute seeds. The bark is brown.

Distribution.—This is a shrub of the high rainfall areas of the Eastern Border. It occurs as far north as Uganda.

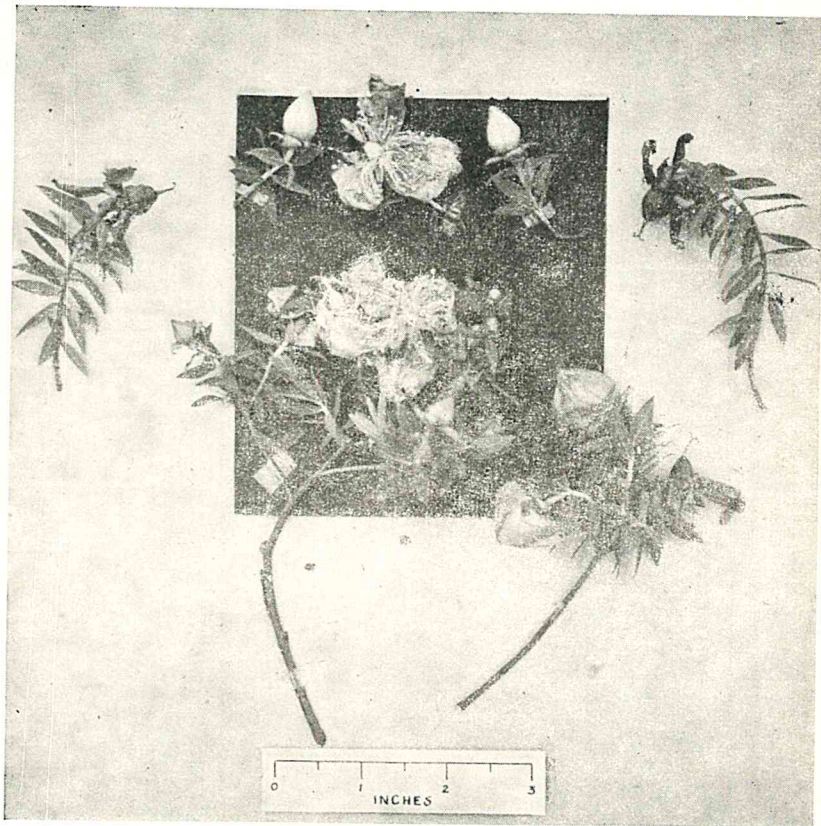
Uses.—No special uses are known other than that it can be usefully employed along such places as roadsides to check erosion as it roots readily from cuttings.

Note.—Another fairly common species of *Hypericum* is *H. roeperianum* Schimp., which, although rather similar to *H. leucoptychodes*, is readily distinguishable on account of its larger and less compacted leaves. It may be seen at the edge of higher rainfall areas, e.g. between Rusape and Inyanga.



Hypericum leucoptychodes
Habit photo

[Photo by: A. A. Pardy.]



Hypericum leucoptychodes
Leaves, flowers and fruits

[Photo by: A. A. Pardy.]

Mimusops zeyheri Sond.

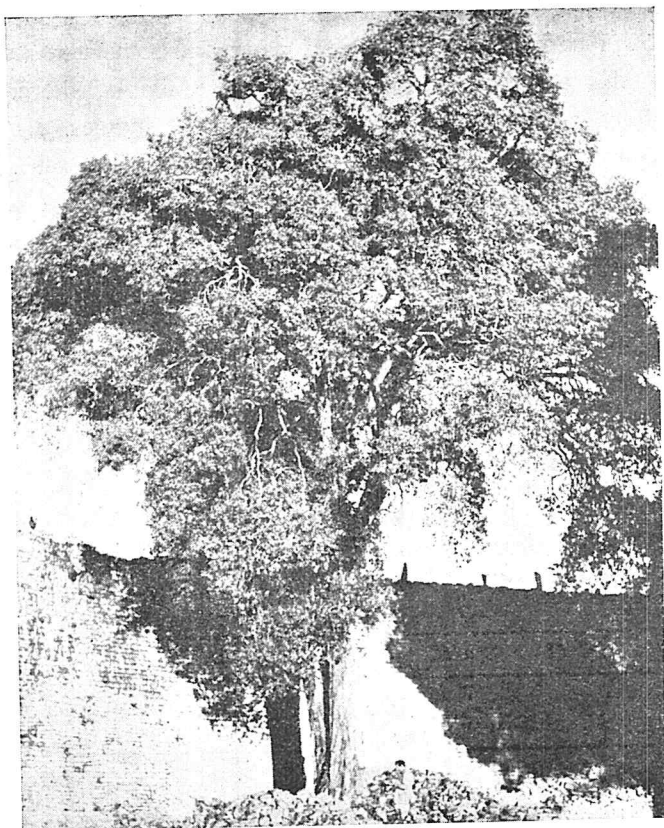
(Sapotaceae)

Common Name.—Red Milkwood. **Native Names.**—Umchechete, uchirinsi, mutunzi (Chis.); umbumbulu Sind.).

General Description.—This fairly widely distributed evergreen tree of erect form is commonly of medium size but may be found up to about 70 feet in height and with diameters up to about 30 inches. The fairly rough bark is of a dark grey colour and somewhat scaly. The tree contains a milky latex. The leaves are simple, alternate, dark green, shiny, somewhat leathery and are without stipules. Leaf blades may be up to about 4 inches in length but are usually about 2-3 inches and are of an elliptical shape with pointed tips. Mid-ribs are prominent on lower surfaces. Petioles are up to an inch in length. Two or three flowers in axils of leaves and each with a long stalk and dense covering of short brown hairs, are to be seen from about January to March. The fruit is a yellow drupe of an elliptical shape.

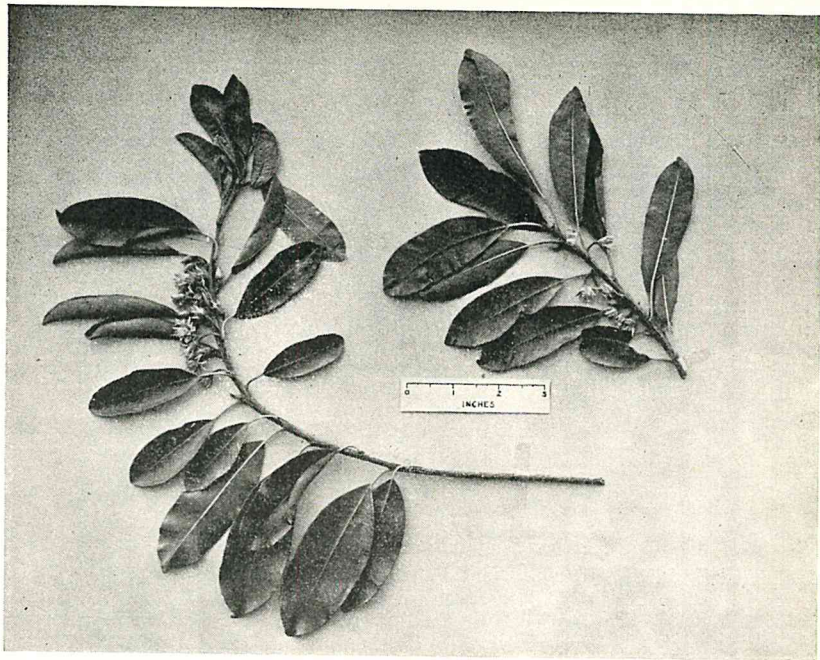
Distribution.—The red milkwood is found as a scattered tree at medium and lower elevations. Large trees can be seen growing in the Temple of the Zimbabwe Ruins.

Uses.—The timber, of a brownish colour, is fairly hard, heavy and fine-grained. Little use has so far been made of the timber. The fruits are edible and the edible portion is stated to have a vitamin C content of 50-80 mgs. per 100 grams.



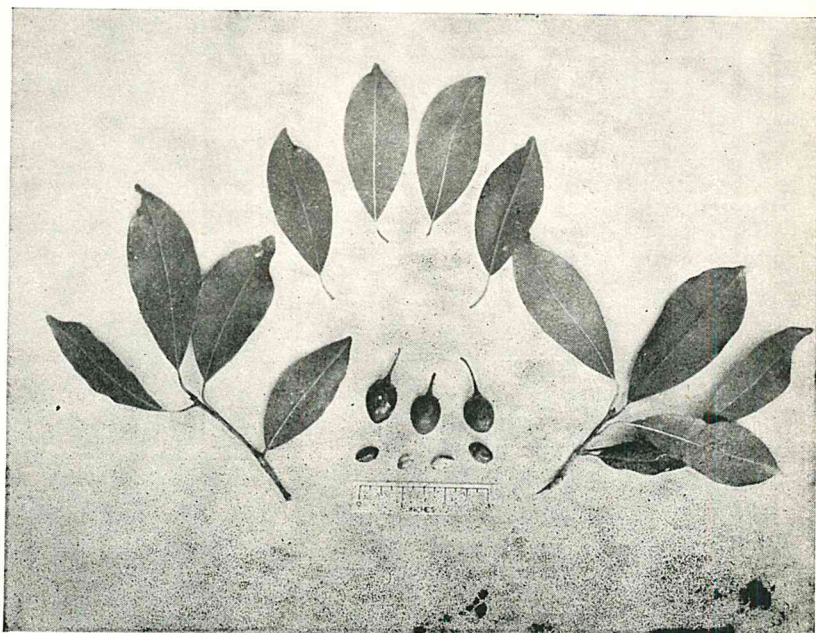
Mimusops zeyheri
Habit photo of tree in temple of Zimbabwe Ruins

[Photo by: A. A. Pardy.]



Mimusops zeyheri
Leaves and flowers

[Photo by: A. A. Pardy.]



Mimusops zeyheri
Leaves, fruits and seeds

[Photo by: A. A. Pardy.]

Rapanea melanophleos (L.) Mey.

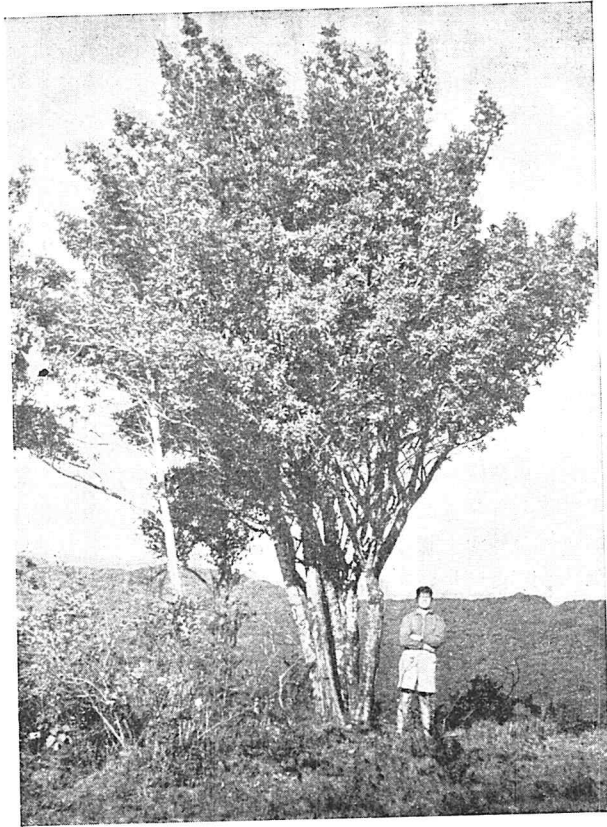
(Myrsinaceae)

Common Name.—Cape Beech. **Native Names.**—Chikuma, mukwir-amakoko, murgwite, mutomo (Chis.).

General Description.—The Cape beech is usually found as a tree up to a height of about 25 feet. The leaves, crowded at the ends of thick branchlets, are simple, entire and exstipulate. The leathery, hairless leaf blades are about 3 inches long, of a rather narrowly elliptical shape and with margins often revolute. They are reddish when young. Mid-ribs are prominent on lower surfaces. Leaf stalks, about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long, are of a red colour. The small, greenish flowers are in clusters on the twigs and the small globose fruits are also in clusters. The fairly smooth bark is of a greyish colour.

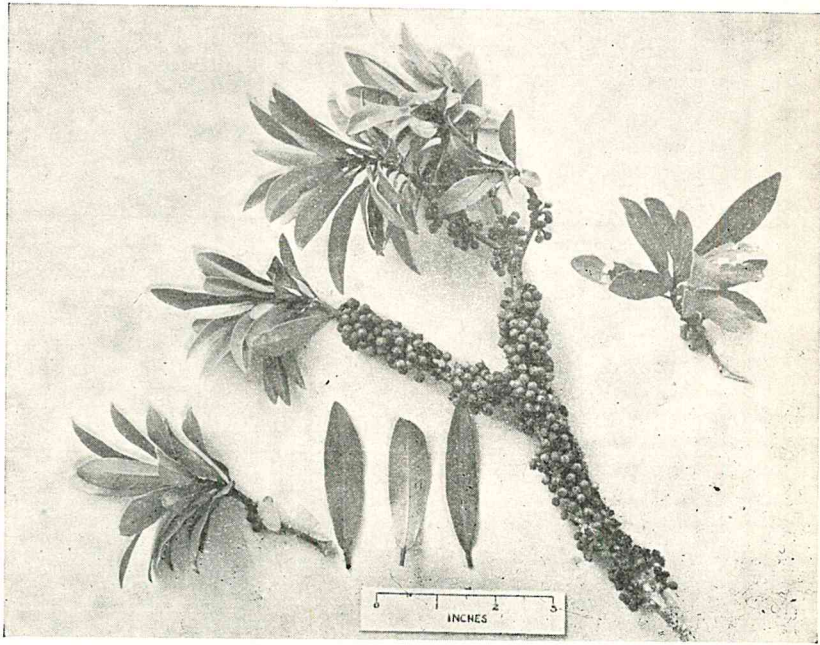
Distribution.—The musonzo occurs in the general area of the Eastern Border.

Uses.—The wood, of a white colour when newly sawn, has a distinctive grain reminiscent of the European beech and hence the common name. The timber should be sawn immediately after felling as it is liable to split if left exposed for too long. It saws easily and to bring out the grain as well as to facilitate seasoning it should be quarter sawn. It weighs about 50 lb. per cubic foot. It is used for furniture, brush heads and handles.



Rapanea melanophleas
Habit photo

[Photo by: G. L. Guy.]



Rapanea melanophleas
Leaves and fruits

[Photo by: A. A. Pardy.]

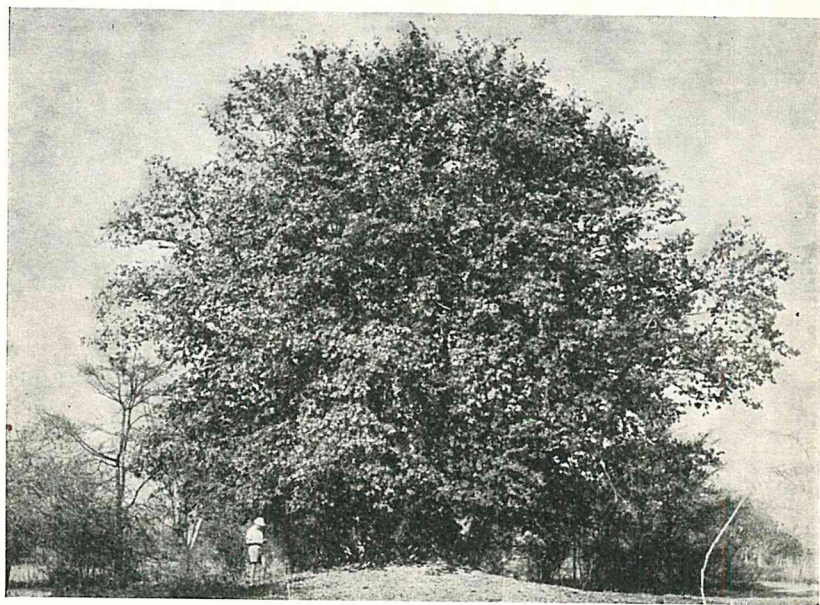
Triplochiton zambesiacus Milne-Redhead
(Sterculiaceae)

Common Name.— **Native Names.**—Musonzo (Mutonga).

General Description.—This is a tree which grows to a height of about 50 feet. It has usually a rounded crown and frequently several stems. The alternate maple-like leaves are 5-7 lobed for about $\frac{1}{3}$ of their length. Veins are distinct on both surfaces. Including the petiole, which is $1\frac{1}{2}$ -2 inches long, the total length of each leaf is about 3-5 inches. The flowers, which are Hibiscus-like, are about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide and are to be seen during the rainy season. Each flower produces 3-4 broadly winged fruits 2-2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches long.

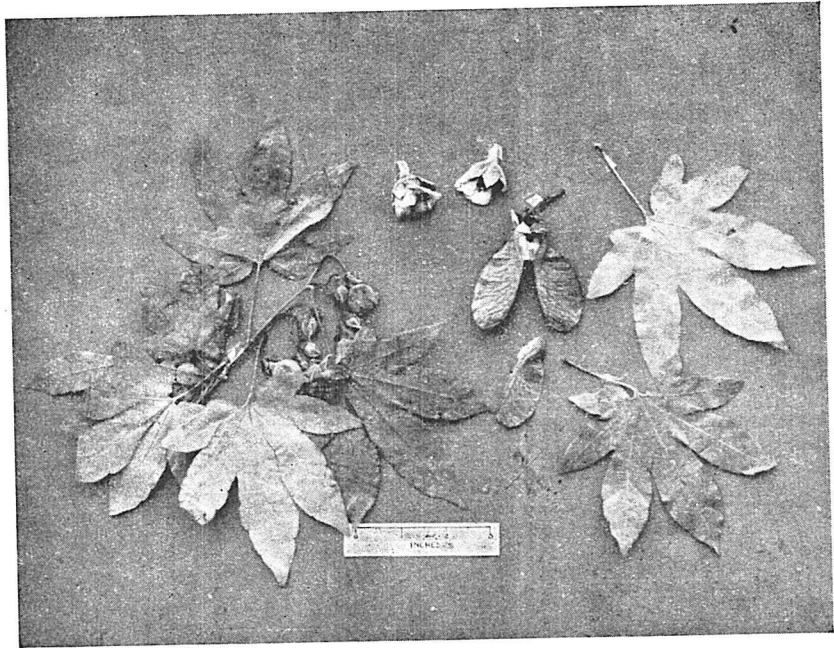
Distribution.—The musonzo occurs in the general area of the Zambesi Valley and may be seen in the vicinity of Wankie.

Uses.—No special uses are known.



Triplochiton zambesiacus
Habit photo

[Photo by: E. J. Kelly Edwards.]



Triplochiton zambesiacus
Leaves, flowers and fruit

[Photo by: A. A. Pardy.]