



Ziziphus mucronata: Buffalo thorn (eng.), Blinkblaar wag-n-bietjie (afr.), umLahlankosi (zulu), mokgalo (north sotho)

Value and Uses:

A valuable fodder tree, especially in the drier areas. Stock and game, (giraffe, eland, kudu nyala, sable, impala, Sharpes grysbok, warthog) relish the highly nutritious leaves. Many species of birds, (guineafowl, francolin, Meyer's parrot, purple-crested turaco and go-away-birds), eat the fruit.

The flowers attract masses of insects which attracts many insect eating birds and four types of butterfly larvae feed on the leaves. The flowers produce large amounts of nectar and are favoured by bees much to the delight of beekeepers.

The tree can be used as an impenetrable hedge until the crown is too high. The bark contains about 12—15 % tannin and the fruit is edible. In some places, the seeds are roasted, crushed and used for coffee..

This tree is drought and frost resistant.

Flowering: October to April
Fruiting: February to August



Description:

A deciduous tree up to 17 m tall with an open, round spreading crown. Bark is rough, dark grey to brown and fissured. Leaves alternate, simple, smooth and shiny. Spines are paired, one hooked and the other straight. Fruit often stays on the tree after leaves have fallen.



Habitat:

Found under nearly all ecological conditions. Mostly in woodland and wooded grassland.

