

# TREE OF THE MONTH: Dec 2017

## Red Ivory (*Dogwood Family*)



**Berchemia zeyheri:** Red ivory, Pink ivory (eng.), Rooi-ivoor (afr.), umNini (zulu), umNeyi (siswati).

### Value and Uses:

The Red ivory is one of the best trees to plant in the garden / property to attract birds.

Bark is eaten by procupines and the leaves are browsed by giraffe, kudu, nyala, blue wildebeest, bushbuck and impala. The ripe fruit is a favourite with most fruit-eating birds like the African green pigeon, Purple-crested turaco, Go-away-bird, mousebirds, crested / black collared/ pied bar-bets, bulbuls and as always, baboons and monkeys.

Fruit is edible, with a most agreeable sweet taste.

Good furniture wood giving a very smooth finish and is termite resistant.

In the Zulu culture it was known as the Royal tree as only the king could carry a *knob-kerrie* made from the Red ivory tree.



**Flowering:** September to January

**Fruiting:** November to April

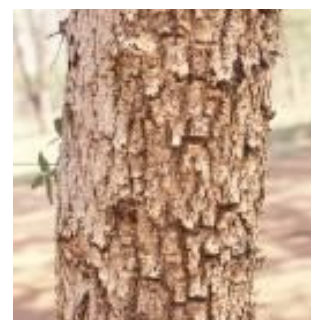
### Description:

An evergreen to semi-deciduous tree up to 15 m tall. Bark is grey-brown and rough breaking up into segments. Flowers are yellowish green and star shaped, borne in sparse clusters in the leaf axils on stalks. Wood is a yellowish sagwood and a very hard, pinkish to red, very heavy heartwood.



### Habitat:

Open woodland and rocky hillsides, rocky ridges and along drain lines.



**THIS TREE IS PROTECTED IN SA**