

TREE OF THE MONTH: August 2017

Philenoptera violacea: Apple-leaf (eng.), Appelblaar (afr.), umBhandu (zulu), Umphandvo (siswati).

Value and Uses:

Often referred to as the 'rain tree' due to the dripping cause by spittle bugs.

An excellent fodder tree for game (giraffe, kudu, nyala, impala etc) and always heavily browsed. Giraffe are partial to these leaves and are usually found in the vicinity. At the onset of Spring, the trees drop most of their leaves. The tree is a real survivor in drought conditions and provides food for game.

It is frost sensitive.

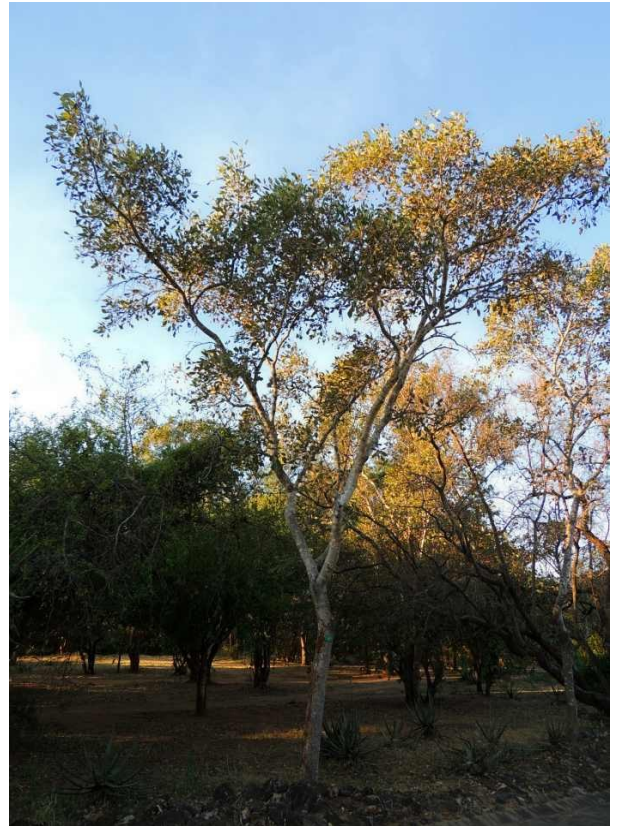
An excellent pollen and nectar source for bees and butterflies.

Wood is used for carvings, grain mortars, and tool handles. Up in the Zambezi and Chobe rivers it is used for making dug-out canoes

Inhalation of the smoke of burning roots is said to relieve colds and the powder of the roots to treat snakebites.

Flowering: September to December

Fruiting: January to August



Description:

A semi-deciduous tree growing from between 12m—20m tall.

Bark light grey-brown, rough, flaking. Young branchlets hairy.

Leaves are unevenly compound with 1—3 pairs of opposite leaves and a larger terminal one.

Flowers in sprays up to 300mm long at the tips of the branches, fragrant, with mauve to violet petals.

Wood with the sapwood off-white and the heartwood orange-brown, hard and dense.

Habitat:

In low altitude open woodland and on the banks of seasonal streams.

Occurs on all types of soil but mostly on sandy and alluvial soils.



THIS TREE IS PROTECTED IN SA