

Appendix A: Guide to tree species of high concern (taken from Mannheimer & Curtis (eds) 2009)©

Acacia erioloba

camel-thorn, omuthiya, omumbonde, omuonde, Kameldornbaum, kameeldoring, | | ganab

The camel-thorn is one of the most common and best known trees of Namibia and deserves the status of 'national tree' if such a tree had to be selected. Semi-deciduous or deciduous tree with **spreading crown, up to 20 m high**; common and widely distributed, preferring sandy soils, depressions and dry riverbeds. BARK **dark grey to blackish, rough with vertical fissures**; young branchlets red-brown to plum-coloured, shiny, smooth, with **characteristic zig-zagging** between nodes. THORNS straight, paired, grey-white with black flecks, rigid, sharp, often with a pale brown tip. LEAVES twice-compound; 1–3 leaves per thorn axil; each pinna bearing 6–15 leaflet pairs; leaflets narrowly linear. FLOWERS golden-yellow. FRUIT a woody, velvety pod; young pods with rust to red-brown covering; older pods **ear-shaped** to sickle-shaped, grey.



Acacia sieberiana

paper-bark acacia, Papierrindenakazie, mutubatuba, muhengeva

Deciduous tree with **spreading crown, 7–12 m high**; found in the far north, Caprivi and in the vicinity of the Okavango River on floodplains, river banks and sandy plains. BARK **yellowish-brown or grey-brown**, rough, **papery, flaking off** to expose a yellow underbark; young branchlets grey-yellow to golden-yellow, downy. THORNS **straight**, paired, up to **70 mm long, slender, white** to pale brown with black flecks. LEAVES twice-compound; each pinna with **20–40 leaflet pairs**; leaflets linear-oblong, **2–5 x c. 1 mm**; pale to dark green above, pale green below. FLOWERS cream-coloured to white. FRUIT a woody pod, up to 150 x 25 mm **and 10 mm thick, straight to slightly sickle-shaped, woody, hairless**, brown; seldom splitting open when mature.



Adansonia digitata

baobab, kremetartboom, omukwa, lemonade tree, Affenbrotbaum, divuyu, #'òm

Deciduous tree, up to 20 m high, with a **characteristically massive trunk**; strangely grotesque; occurs on plains, hill slopes and floodplains in the north-western and north-eastern parts of the country on both sandy and rocky substrates. BARK smooth, pinkish-brown to grey to grey-brown, often convoluted. LEAVES of young trees simple, those of older trees **5-7-palmately compound**, mostly terminally clustered on branch tips; leaflets dark green above, initially downy; pale green below, initially densely covered with long, soft, stellate hairs, becoming sparsely hairy to almost hairless; margin smooth. FLOWERS **up to 120 mm in diameter, pure white, hanging on long stalks; 5 crinkled, waxy petals curl back; numerous stamens fuse to form a central column**. FRUIT ovoid to obovoid, 200–300 x 100–180 mm somewhat woody, with dirty, olive-green, velvety covering.

It is estimated that the baobab can reach an age of 1000 years or more.



Boscia albitrunca

shepherd's tree, witgat, omutendereti, omunkunzi

Evergreen shrub or tree, up to 10 m high; widespread in Namibia, occurring in many different habitats and exhibiting a range of different growth forms. BARK **pale in colour, almost white**, although may be partially grey or occasionally yellow; rough, especially where flaking has occurred. LEAVES simple, spirally arranged, solitary or in clusters of 2–4 on dwarf shoots; **blade oblong or oblong-elliptic, 10–55 x 3–10 mm**; thick, leathery, brittle, slightly rough; **both surfaces grey-green to dark green**, practically hairless; midrib prominent, yellowish; margin smooth, finely fringed with hairs; tip blunt to shallowly notched, often with tiny hair-like tip. FLOWERS small, green-yellow; August to February. FRUIT spherical, c. 10 mm in diameter; yellow when ripe. SEEDS round to kidney-shaped, with brittle cream-coloured warty shell; one to several embedded in bright orange flesh.

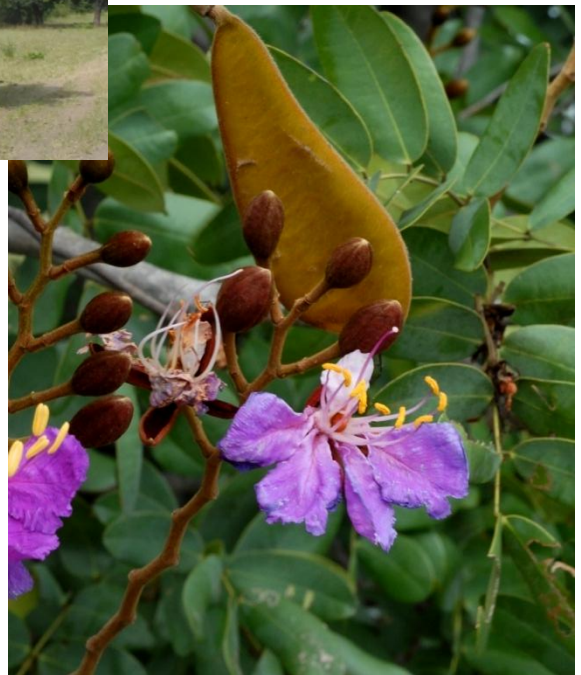
The shepherd's tree grows in conditions ranging from arid to subtropical. This species has many uses, making it an important component of the vegetation wherever it occurs. It is also an important shade tree.



Baikiaea plurijuga

Zambezi teak, Rhodesian teak, uhahe, omupapa, ghukuthi, omuzumba

Deciduous tree with dense, spreading crown, **up to 20 m high**; confined to dry woodlands, growing on Kalahari sand; occurs mainly in the north-east, but may also be found near Ruacana. BARK rough, grey to dark brown, or smooth, grey and flaking off in longitudinal strips; young branchlets densely woolly. LEAVES evenly pinnate, alternate, bearing 4–6 leaflet pairs; leaflets opposite, oblong to narrowly elliptic, 35–75 x 15–30 mm, leathery; dark green above, pale green and matt below, both surfaces downy; **apex slightly indented, with short bristle**; base blunt. FLOWERS conspicuous, 20–30 mm long; **petals pink to mauve, crinkly**; buds with golden-brown downy hairs. FRUIT a **flattened, woody pod, covered with rust-brown, densely woolly covering; tip broader than base**; splitting open loudly when ripe, and shooting seeds in all directions, **valves then twisting into spirals**.



Berchemia discolor

bird-plum, ombe, omuve, wilde dadel, mukerete, wilde Dattel, | urehaib

Deciduous or semi-deciduous tree with a **rounded crown**, up to 12 m high; common and prominent tree in the north, where it is left standing when woodlands are cleared for fields and homesteads. BARK grey to dark grey, vertically and transversely fissured, rough; branchlets with pale, plum-coloured bark and white lenticels, with dense, grey, downy covering when young; older branchlets brown to plum-coloured with darker lenticels. LEAVES simple, alternate or spirally arranged, opposite or opposite with successive pairs at right-angles to each other; **elliptic to oblong-elliptic to obovate**, 30–120 x 15–60 mm; **dark green, shiny and smooth above, lateral veins prominent**, pale green below; margin smooth. FRUIT an ovoid-oblong berry, c. 20 x 8 mm; **fleshy, yellow when ripe**.



Combretum imberbe

leadwood, omumborombonga, hardekool, Ahnenbaum, munyondo, omukuku, | haab

Semi-deciduous tree, up to 20 m high; a typical constituent of riverine vegetation, although it also occurs on plains and hill slopes, and is found in central and northern areas. BARK whitish to **pale grey to dark grey**, rough with **characteristic deep, vertical and transverse fissures dividing the bark up into small, square fragments**; branchlets covered in dense, silver to rust-red scales. LEAVES simple, with successive pairs set at right-angles to each other; narrowly elliptic to oblanceolate, 30–80 x 9–40 mm; **both surfaces grey-green, giving the entire tree a characteristic colour**, hairless **with silvery, microscopic scales**; margin entire, **often sinuate**; often with a fine, hair-like tip. INFLORESCENCE an axillary spike or terminal spray, up to 80 mm long. FRUIT 4-winged, **ovate** to spherical, **small**, 10–20 x c. 15 mm; **characteristically yellow-green and densely covered in scales**; **wings papery, densely covered in small, silvery scales**.

Many of the finest specimens of leadwood in southern Africa are found in Namibia. This, together with the fact that they are very slow growing – some specimens of this tree have been determined to be more than 1000 years old – necessitates special protection measurements to conserve these old giants.

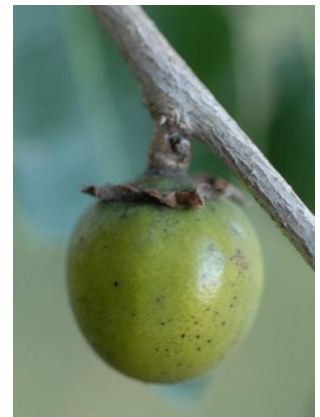


Diospyros mespiliformis

jackal-berry, Schakalsbeerenbaum, omwandi, omunyandi, jakkalsbessie, ghutunda

Tall, erect, almost evergreen tree, up to 16 m high, **with dark foliage turning yellow before falling**; found in riverine vegetation along the perennial rivers and around pans in the north. **BARK grey to black-grey, rough, transversely fissured**, crumbly; branchlets with yellow to red, densely woolly covering. **LEAVES** simple, alternate; lanceolate to **elliptic, leathery, 40–140 x 15–35 mm; shiny, dark green above**, pale green below; margin entire. **FRUIT** a berry, almost spherical, up to 25 mm in diameter, with a fine, hair-like tip; fleshy, hairless to sparsely downy, **yellow to purple when ripe**; calyx persistent, encircling one-third of the fruit; edible.

This imposing tree, with its dark, brooding appearance, is easy to identify from far off, often being the tallest tree around where it occurs.



Entandrophragma spicatum

Owambo wooden-banana, omataku

Deciduous tree, **10–12 m high**; known only from the Kaokoveld and the central-north, usually grows on deep sand, but may also be found on rocky hill slopes. BARK pale to dark grey, peeling off in large pieces to expose a yellowish underbark. LEAVES evenly pinnate, clustered at branch tips; bearing 3–7 pairs of leaflets although leaflets occasionally unpaired; **leaflets circular to elliptic to broadly elliptic**, paler green above, sparsely downy, veins prominent; margin entire, fringed with hairs, turned under; apex blunt, occasionally shallowly notched; base blunt. FRUIT **a cylindrical capsule, 110–160 mm long, woody, splitting into 5 valves which recurve from central column, creating the impression of a peeled banana**. SEEDS winged.



Ficus sycomorus

sycamore fig, cluster fig, omukuyu

Striking, semi-deciduous, single-stemmed tree, up to 20 m high; trunk diameter up to 2 m; **crown spreading** with a span of up to 45 m; found on plains, riverbanks and near pans, depressions and springs in western and northern areas of Namibia as well as the Naukluft and the south-western escarpment.

STEM distinctly fluted at the base. BARK **characteristically yellow** to yellow-brown or greyish with a yellow tinge; relatively smooth with rough, grey patches flaking off to expose a yellow underbark. LEAVES simple, spirally arranged; **blade circular to ovate, stiff, rough and leathery**; dark green, matt or slightly shiny above, dark olive-green below, matt, covering as above, **veins prominent with conspicuous secondary veins originating at base**; margin entire, irregularly crenate, fringed with hairs, turned under, undulate; FIGS borne in dense clusters on main stem and branches or solitary in leaf axils, 15–30 mm in diameter.

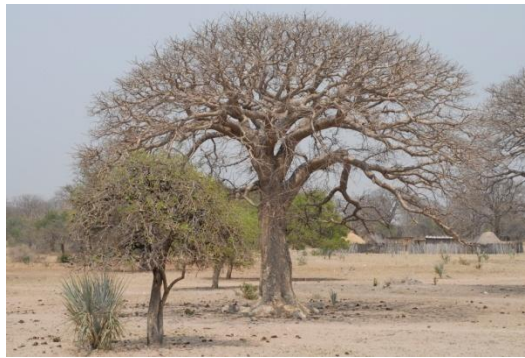


Schinziophyton rautanenii

manketti, ugongo, omunkete, Mankettibaum, Ölfruchtbaum

Large, attractive, deciduous tree with **spreading crown**, 15–20 m high; known from the central-northern and north-eastern areas of Namibia, growing on sandy substrates.

Large, attractive, deciduous tree with **spreading crown**, 15–20 m high; known from the central-northern and north-eastern areas of Namibia, growing on sandy substrates. BARK smooth, **yellowish to yellow-grey** to grey with a greenish tint, round flat pieces peeling off to expose a yellowish underbark. LEAVES **5–7-palmately compound**; petiole dense rust-brown hairy, with 2 prominent green glands at tip, base thickened; leaflets dark green above with dense rust-brown, stellate hairs; pale yellow-green below, with brown-white, finely woolly covering, midrib and lateral veins prominent and pale yellow-green; young leaflets with a yellowish or brownish down; margin entire in young leaves but later finely serrate; apex blunt to somewhat pointed; base asymmetric. FRUIT smooth, ovoid, **nut-like**, 1-seeded; flesh mealy. SEEDS enclosed in hard shell.



Sclerocarya birrea

marula, maroela, omungongo

Large, attractive deciduous tree, 10–18 m high, sometimes even bigger, with a dense spreading crown; occurs in most parts of northern Namibia on sandy to sandy loam soils, mainly on plains but also in other habitats. BARK **covered with irregular, flat, dark grey scales; young branchlets with conspicuous leaf scars**. LEAVES unevenly compound, usually clustered on branch tips, up to 300 mm long; leaflets ovate to broadly obovate, orbicular or elliptic, dark green, hairless, with a dull, waxy coating; **margin entire or only so along upper margin with lower margin coarsely dentate (especially in young plants)**; apex acute or with a distinct, sharply tapering point; base tapering to truncate, often oblique. FRUIT almost spherical, tough-skinned, up to 40 mm in diameter, pale creamy yellow when ripe; edible.

The marula is one of the best-known trees in Namibia due to its numerous uses; it plays an important role in the life of many rural Namibians.

