

7. *Albizia Anthelmintica* Brongn. (Mimosaceae)

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

Name of the Family: MIMOSACEAE/FABACEAE

Name of the Species: *Albizia Anthelmintica* Brongn.

Synonym (s): *Besenna anthelmintica* A. Rich. *Albizzia conjugate-pinnata* Vatke

Common Name: -----(English).

Vernacular name: *Olumugutani* (Maasai). *Mporojo* (Kiswahili).

HABITS OF THE PLANT: Deciduous tree about 3 m but can grow up to 7 m high. Bark smooth, grey to brown. Young branchlets glabrous or sometimes shortly pubescent; twigs often with short divaricate lateral branches.

BRANCHES AND LEAVES: Leaves in pinnae glabrous to shortly pubescent, in all or most leaves projecting at ends in a short rigid persistent deflexed or downwards-bent hook or claw; often a single stipel similarly bent near base of pinnae; pinnae 1-4 pairs, obliquely obovate to suborbicular 7-10mm long by 4-6 mm. wide, mucronate at the apex, glabrous to shortly pubescent.

FLOWERS: Flowers usually on leafless twigs, on pedicels 0.5-5.5 mm. long. Calyx pale greenish, glabrous to sparsely finely pubescent outside, irregular denticulate at the apex and usually slit unilaterally to about 1-2.5 mm. Corolla pale greenish, 6-12 mm. long, glabrous, or puberulous on and near lobe-margins. Staminal tube not or scarcely exerted beyond corolla; Filament about 1.5-2 cm. long, white.

FRUITS: Fruits in pods oblong, 7-18 cm. long, 1.5-2.9 cm wide, quite glabrous or occasionally puberulous all over, straw-coloured.

SEED: Seeds 9-13 mm. in diameter, flattened and round.

ECOLOGY AND HABITAT: Prefers deciduous and evergreen bushland and dry scrub with trees, especially along seasonal rivers and in termite-mounds clump-thickets at altitude of 80-1520m a.s.l.

FLOWERING AND FRUITING PERIOD: Especially after rain season, in the months of May to September.

LOCAL DISTRIBUTION: Within East African Region, TANZANIA: - Shinyanga Distric: Ngunga, Mbulu Distrc, Mpwapwa-Dodoma, Arusha District; Maasai Plateau, Around Tarangire and Manyara National Park, Enduleni-Ngorongoro Conservation Area. KENYA: Rift Valley District; Machakos District, near MauMau Hill, Kenyan Maasai Plateau. UGANDA: -Karamja District: Moroto, Mbale District. It is also found in Malawi, Congo, Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Angola and Mozambique, southwards to South Africa –Natal and Cape Province.

ECONOMIC USE: MEDICINAL. A well known medicinal tree; bark and roots contain some medicinal ingredients.