

**PODOCARPUS LATIFOLIUS (Old name, Podocarpus Thunbergii).**

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The Rreal or Upright Yellowwood or Regte Geelhout. An evergreen tree with long narrow leaves; grows to 100 feet high and 4 feet diameter in good conditions in the rain forests. Has male and female trees. The male trees bear male catkins about one inch long. The female trees give rise to single or double seeds each with a hard shell and a fleshy skin. The bark is light-brown and stringy. This belongs to the *Conifer* family.

The wood is well known as a creamy-yellow coloured, even grain, light weight (31 lb. per cubic foot), fairly hard and strong, and ideal for flooring, though unfortunately hitherto largely used as railway sleepers, for which purpose it is not suitable unless first creosoted, as it is not durable in the ground. This species, with its near relation the Common Yellowwood, has supplied more indigenous timber than any other in South Africa.

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**PSEUDOCADIA ZAMBESIACA (Matomie).**

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A beautiful evergreen tree with very spreading, shady crown, found growing in the hot dry country north of the Zoutpansberg, and more rarely in the low veld near the Klein Letaba river.

The bark is dark and rough. Leaves pinnate of several pairs of small narrow, blunt leaflets. Flowers small, mauvish-white, in tresses. Fruit oval, one seeded, smooth, reddish-brown when ripe and about three quarters of an inch long by one-half of an inch broad. Fruits occasionally found to be twin-like, two together.

Easily raised from seed, but tender to frost and to damping off, hence should probably be raised in sandy soil, not watered too much and protected from frost.

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**PTEROCARPUS ANGOLENSIS (Kejaat).**

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A deciduous tree of the northern and eastern Transvaal. It is usually found in patches near the junction of the foothills and the low veld, but occasionally also half-way up to the foothills to about 4,000 feet altitude, and also down to altitude of about 2,000 feet, but never in the dense rain forest. It usually grows to about 40 feet high and 18 inches diameter.

It has a graceful feathery foliage of compound leaves; yellow pea flowers in September and October, and large membranous roundish pods with stiff bristles bunched together in the centre, usually one seed inside. Bark usually nearly black, and rough. The wood varies in colour from a reddish-brown to dark coppery-brown with darker streaks; it is of fairly light weight (38 lb. per cubic foot) and hard, takes a very fine polish and is of great value for furniture; it is also very durable.

It is a tree which can be propagated from seed or from truncheons, but so far little has been done in this direction, though a start has been made.

One of the waiting rooms in the Johannesburg railway station is panelled in kejaat.



**PTEROCARPUS ROTUNDIFOLIUS (P. SERICEUS) (Dopper-kejaat).**

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A common deciduous tree of the low veld, growing to 30 feet high and 10 inches to 20 inches in diameter. Bark yellowish, flakey.

Leaves compound, of two to three pairs of rather rounded leaflets. Flowers a bright yellow, of the pea type. Fruit a small flat one-seeded pod, tapering at both ends.

Flowers about October to December. Seeds, unfortunately, usually destroyed by insect.

A handsome tree when covered with its sweet-scented flowers.

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**PYGEUM AFRICANUM (Red Stinkwood, Bitteramandel).**

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A handsome tree of the rain forests, growing up to 80 feet high and two feet diameter in good conditions. Bark very dark and rough. Wide crown of shiny leaves with small white flowers; fruit like a small cherry, very bitter; freshly cut bark or crushed leaves or fruit smell strongly of prussic acid.

Wood reddish-brown, hard, heavy, and close grained, used for waggon felloes.

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**SCHOTIA TRANSVAALENSIS (Boerboon).**

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A semi-deciduous tree of the drier parts of the Transvaal. Grows from 30 feet to 40 feet high and about 18 inches diameter.

Bark rough and dark-brown when old, though light-grey and smoothish when young.

Leaves pinnate of small rounded leaflets, some with a tiny point at the end. Crown usually very rounded and dense. Flowers a rich red, full of nectar and very attractive to bees and ants; on shaking a flowering branch, one is drenched in a rain of sweet nectar.

The tree usually flowers about September to October, but sometimes as early as June and as late as December.

The fruit is a broad woody brown pod about three to four inches long and one to one and half inches wide, with several long shaped seeds of a pale buff colour, and bright yellowish aril to each seed.

Unfortunately most of the seeds are eaten by caterpillars. Easily raised from seed, somewhat slow in nursery, and as it possesses a long tap-root, it should be raised in deep tins only. Prefers deep sandy soil.

Sapwood greyish-pink, heartwood dark reddish-brown, heavy and hard; might make good furniture.

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**SCLEROCARYA CAFFRA (Maroela).**

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A common deciduous tree of the Transvaal and Rhodesia and further north. Grows up to about 30 feet high and up to 2½ feet diameter.

Bark pinkish-grey and flaking when old, smooth and grey when young. Leaves pinnate at the ends of twigs. Consist of several small leaflets about 1½ inches to 2 inches long and about half as wide.



Has small male and female flowers. Male flowers small, closely clustered on an elongated stalk at the ends of twigs; female flowers, each on its own stalk, at the ends of twigs.

Fruits like a small green plum, getting yellow when ripe.

The fruit is greatly valued by natives for making a form of beer.

Wood is soft, light and pinkish when dry; used by natives for stamp blocks, troughs, dishes, etc.

It is easily raised from seed, and also often grows from truncheons.

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### **SECURIDACA LONGIPEDUNCULATA (Violet Tree).**

A small deciduous tree of the bushveld, Rustenburg, Pretoria, Nylstroom, etc.

Bark smooth and greyish-white. Leaves small, usually about 1 inch long by  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch wide, rounded and leathery. Flowers appear to be of the pea type, but close examination shows that they are not really pea flowers; they are, however, very ornamental, varying from rose pink to deep violet, sometimes streaked with white and smelling strongly of violets. The fruit is winged, with one seed.

The bark yields an excellent, durable fibre.

The wood is spongy, soft, and of no known value.

Very slow in nursery; probably wants sandy soil, not too much watering, and protection from frost. The fruits remain on the tree for more than a year, and seem to germinate better when a year old than when young.

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### **SPIROSTACHYS AFRICANA (Tamboti).**

A deciduous tree of the lowveld, not found in rain forests.

Foliage often has red tints among the light green. It bears separate male and female flowers, in a small brown catkin, many upper ones being males, and the few lower ones female.

The tree sometimes grows to about 40 feet high and 18 inches diameter, but it is usually smaller. Bark nearly black, and rough. The sap is milky (it belongs to the *Euphorbia* family) and is very dangerous to the eyes. The wood is extremely handsome, a coppery brown with dark streaks and waves in it, and it is very sweet-scented.

The fruit, which is like three little peas fused together, splits to give three tiny seeds like small peas.

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### **TERMINALIA SERICIA (Sandvaalbos).**

An evergreen tree, usually with a somewhat flattish crown. Bark greyish-brown and fibrous. Leaves silvery, 3 inches to 4 inches long and about one-third as wide. Flowers small and inconspicuous; fruit flat, one seeded, winged; the wing tapering at top and bottom, and rounded at sides.

A common feature is a large woody gall which might be carelessly mistaken for a fruit.



The tree is found both in the low veld and in the higher altitude of the bushveld, Pretoria, Waterberg, etc. The timber is yellow, close grained, hard, strong; heartwood very durable in the ground, but sapwood not durable.

Grows usually to 40 feet high, but is sometimes seen bigger.

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**TREMA BRACTEOLATA (Hophout or Pigeon Wood).**

A deciduous tree of fast growth and short life; usually grows up to about 50 feet high and 18 inches diameter, but is sometimes found up to 70 feet high and 2 feet diameter. Foliage dull light-green, not dense. Bark grey and smooth.

Flowers inconspicuous, small, yellowish.

Fruit small, black, of the plum type.

This seems to be the fastest of the Transvaal trees, and it keeps pace easily with pines near Houtbosch, but is not found growing naturally in the drier parts.

Wood pinkish colour, light in weight; would be useful for boxes or for light furniture.

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**TRICHELIA EMETICA (Rooiessenhout).**

A tree which is usually evergreen, but is occasionally found nearly leafless; it varies in its habit of growth, according to locality; when found in moist, cool kloofs it is often 80 feet high, and with long, clean stem up to 3 feet diameter at base; but in drier localities in the open it is usually a widespreading tree of about 30 feet high, with short stem of 12 to 24 inches diameter.

Foliage dark green, long rounded compound leaves. Bark greyish-brown, fairly smooth.

Flowers small dull-yellow sweet scented, flowering about September-November, and giving rise to a rounded fruit containing from 3 to 6 long-shaped black seeds with a red mark on side. Easily raised from seed, and also grows from cuttings.

This tree has a wide distribution in the Transvaal as well as in other parts, for it is found high up in the Houtbosch rain forest at 5,000 feet, and also in the open savannah on the low veld near Tzaneen at about 2,000 feet; common also along rivers in the low veld.

Extensively planted in streets of Durban.

Wood fairly light, a pinkish-brown; useful for furniture if properly seasoned.

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**VIRGILIA CAPENSIS (Keur).**

An evergreen leguminous tree with sweet-scented pink, pea flowers, which is found naturally in the Knysna forests, and occasionally near Capetown, but not east of Port Elizabeth, though it has been successfully introduced in the Transvaal; Pretoria, Houtbosch, etc.

The tree is fast-growing but of shorter life than most of our indigenous trees. In good condition it may reach 70 feet high and 2 feet diameter, but it is usually a small tree up to 40 feet high and 1 foot diameter.



It may be found in partial flower at almost any time of the year, but chiefly in spring and early summer.

It has compound leaves, each with about ten pairs of small leaflets, and when young, these are hairy.

Bark is smooth, greyish-brown, but may get quite dark and fairly rough when old.

Fruit is a long narrow pod with three to six seeds; pod is hairy when young.

The seeds can remain alive for many years on the ground, but if a fire is lit on the ground near an old Keur tree, it will be found that in a few weeks many seeds have germinated; it is easily grown from seed, if the seed is first soaked for five minutes in nearly boiling water.

The wood is light and porous, and is used for yokes.

The tree usually grows along the outer edge of the rain forest, and can therefore grow in the open, whereas most other of our forest trees would need some shade; but it likes good deep soil, and a fair amount of moisture.

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#### **XYMALOS MONOSPORA (Lemonwood, Lemoenhout).**

A large evergreen tree of the rain forest of northern Transvaal and also of Natal and Transkei.

Foliage dense, dark-green, of fairly large simple leaves. Flowers inconspicuous, creamy-coloured. Fruits  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch long with red leathery skin. Bark greyish-yellow, flakey. Wood yellowish, moderately heavy and hard, with a handsome sheen on it, and suitable for furniture.

This tree casts a very dense shade and is usually badly shaped and seldom quite sound, hence it is one of the commonest now found in worked-out forests.

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#### **ZIZYPHUS MUCRONATA (Blinkblaar-Wag-'n-Bietjie).**

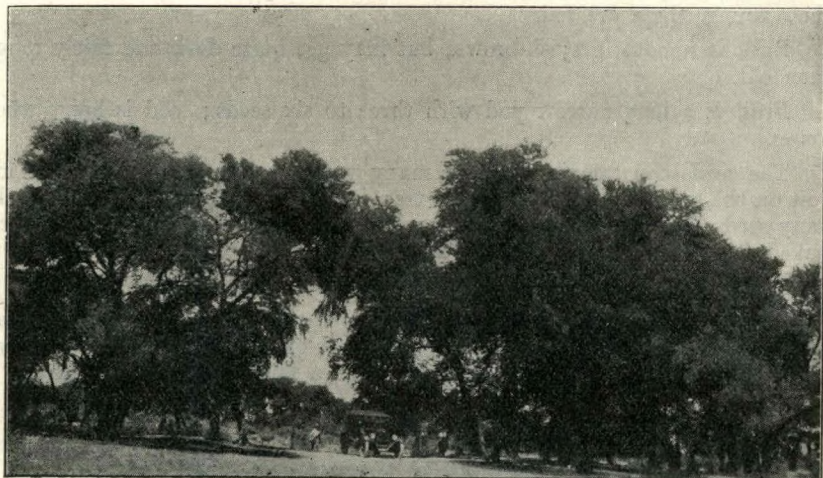
A semi-deciduous spreading-crowned tree of very wide distribution over South Africa, but not usually in high forests. Usually grows 20 to 30 feet high and up to about 18 inches diameter, though often found merely as a shrub, and also sometimes as a large tree. Bark greyish-yellow when young, dark and rough when old. Leaves usually shiny, about 2 inches long, pointed, with usually toothed-edges and three prominent main leaf-veins; the twigs are armed with a pair of hooked thorns, one pointed downwards, one upwards.

Flowers very small, in small clusters close to the stem; open about November. Fruits of the plum type, fleshy, round, reddish-brown when ripe, about May.

Timber hard, heavy, compact, yellow coloured, streaked with red; grain somewhat twisted; not very durable in the ground; wood used for yokes, felloes, naves, etc., when better not obtainable; young shoots make excellent whipsticks.

The leaves are of good food value for stock. Easily raised from seed.





*Acacia Karroo* (Soetdoring) in the Northern Transvaal.



*Acacia robusta* near Pretoria.



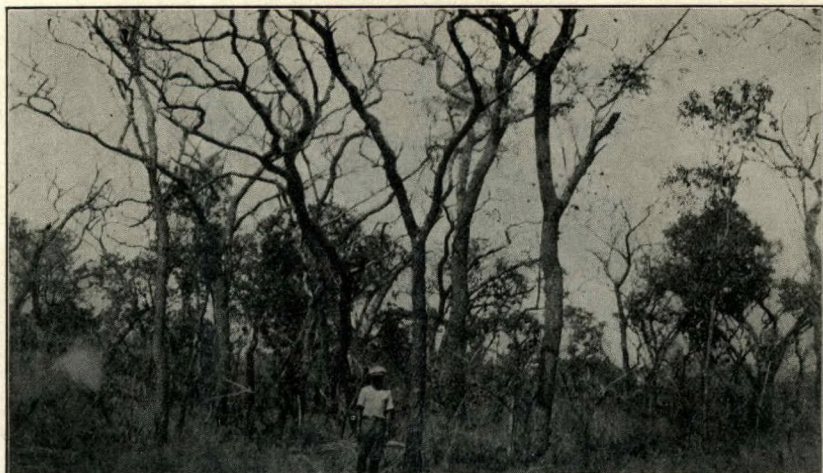


*Podocarpus latifolius* (Upright Yellowwood).

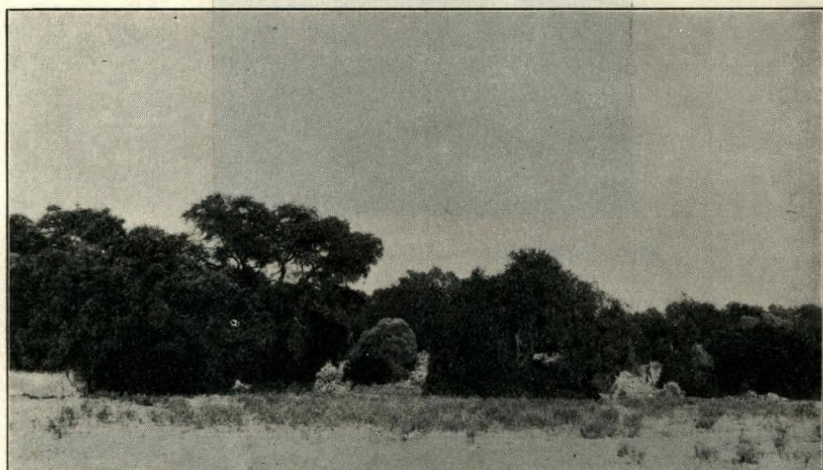


Patches of Indigenous High Forest near Tzaneen.





*Pterocarpus angolensis* (Kejaat).

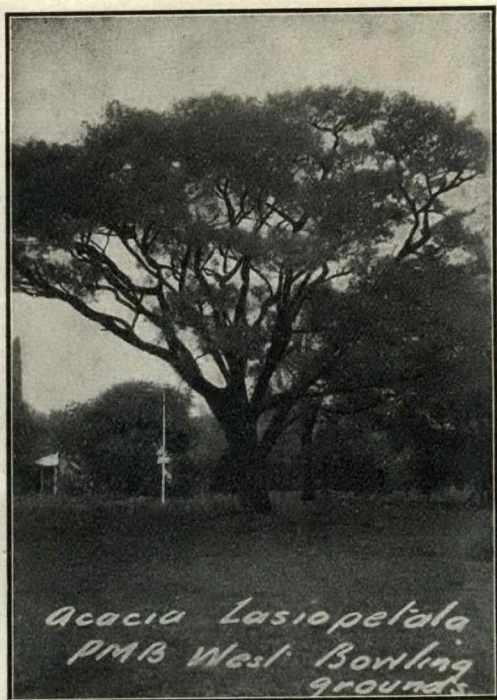


A typical mixture of trees and shrubs in the Bushveld.



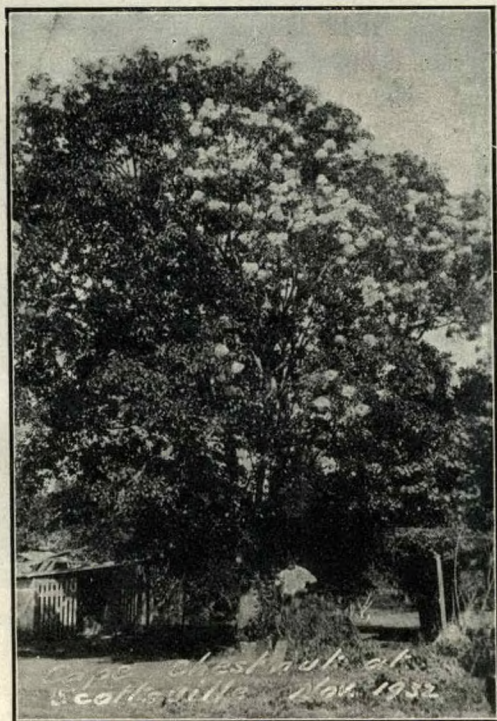
*Acacia giraffae* (Kameeldoring)  
in P.P. Rust district.





*Acacia lasiopetala*  
PMB West Bowling  
grounds

*Acacia-lasiopetala.*



*Calodendron capense*  
Scottsville Nov 1932

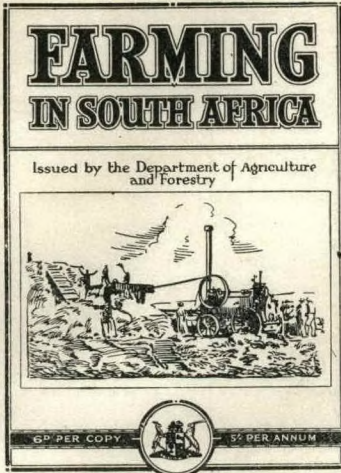
*Calodendron capense* (Wild Chestnut).





*Faurea saligna* (Boekenhout) in a Pretoria garden.





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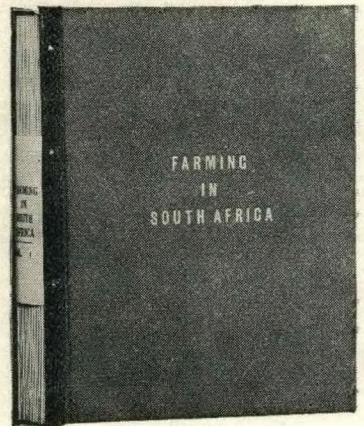
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