



Celtis Africana RSA:39

English: White Stinkwood
Afrikaans: Witstinkhout
IsiZulu: indwandwazane
Sepedi: molutu

The Celtis Africana is widely distributed throughout South Africa. It gets the name "stinkwood" from the unpleasant smell of its wood when freshly cut.

Status: Protected.

Identification:

Height: the Celtis Africana is a deciduous tree that can grow to 30m, usually as a single trunk which may be buttressed.

Leaves: leaves are oval with three veins from base along the length of the leaf. Leaves alternating along the length of the stem are dull green in colour and have a hairy texture. Upper two thirds of the leaf have a serrated edge.

Flowers: [not shown] appear with the new leaf growth in spring, both male and female flowers grow on the same tree.

Fruit: are drupe, i.e. a stone surrounded by a fleshy outer. They grow to about 6 mm in diameter and are yellow to brown in colour.

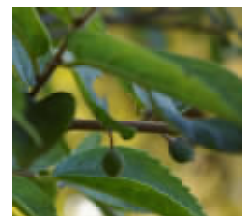
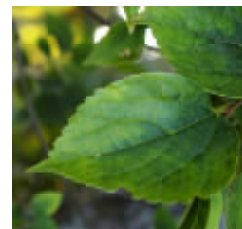
Bark: is smooth pale grey

Human use:

Garden: ornamental also Bonsai.

Traditional: wood used for furnishing and household utensils such as bowls and spoons.

Medicinal: wood used as protective charm.



Animal use:

Cattle and game eat the leaves. Birds, baboons and monkeys eat the fruit.



Location:

The specimen pictured is located west of the Lynnwood Road gate along the concrete path in the Moreleta reserve, see illustration above.

Bibliography

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