

Albizia adianthifolia

Mimosoideae

Indigenous

Nyanja: Mtanga

Ecology: Widespread in tropical Africa in Zimbabwe, Mozambique, South Africa, west to the Gambia and north to Kenya. In Zambia it grows in *chipya* woodlands in Eastern Zambia along the valleys and on the plateau.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber (furniture, tool handles), **medicine** (bark, roots), fodder (leaves), **nitrogen fixation**.

Description: A semi-deciduous tree to 27 m with erect, **spreading branches to a light, feathery crown**. Branchlets hairy. **BARK:** red when young, becoming dark brown-black, ridged, cracking into small square scales. **LEAVES:** bipinnate, the **5–8 pairs pinnae** each with 5–17 pairs of leaflets, each leaflet rectangular, 2 cm long with yellow hairs below, leaf tip usually blunt. **FLOWERS:** **white-green in hemispherical heads**, the stamen tubes red-pink-green, **hanging out of each flower**. **FRUIT:** **flat pods, softly hairy, dull yellow-brown**, 9–19 cm and 3 cm across, containing dark green seeds, oval and flat.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings.

Seed: The pods split open and are carried some distance with the seeds still attached. This makes collection difficult. Seed are often damaged by insects.

treatment: Not necessary.

storage: Not more than 3 months. Add ash to reduce insect damage.

Management: Fairly slow growing.

Remarks: The bark is used to treat scabies and other skin diseases as well as bronchitis. Roots are used to treat eye inflammation, snakebite and stomach-ache. Plant on hilly ground and for intercropping with food crops.

