

***Vitex morogoroensis* Walsingham & S. Atkins**

Verbenaceae

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Status global: **Endangered (E)** Status local: **Endangered**

This shrub/climber has only been collected once from Kimboza Forest and thus is likely to be rare.

Striking identification features

- trifoliolate leaves
- hollow stems
- ovoid fruit (1 cm) with a shallow cup covered with short hairs.



Description

Stature: shrub or climber with hollow stems.

Size: -

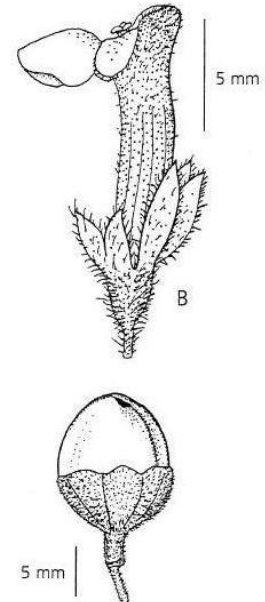
Bark:

Leaves: trifoliolate, leaflets 8-14 cm long, 4.5-7.5 cm wide. Central leaflet longer and broader.

Flower: unbranched inflorescence composed of opposite (1-)2-3-flowered cymes, denser towards the apex. Flowers about 1cm long with reddish calyx and creamy white corolla.

Fruit: ovoid 1.4 cm long and 1 cm wide, a shallow cup, covered with short hairs.

Seed:



Status and distribution: Only from Kimboza and Mkungwe forests in the Morogoro District. Only two collections ever made. It is unlikely to be abundant in view of the numerous plant collections made at Kimboza. Assessed as Endangered. First collected in 1983 and described in 2006.

Habitat requirements: Unknown.

Phenology: Flowering recorded in July.

Reproduction: Insect-pollinated.

Uses in East Africa: None are known.

Locals uses: None are known.

Sources and further information

Botanical description: Walsingham & Atkins (2006)

Herbarium specimens:

Rodgers *et al.* 2581 (dsm,K) 1983-07, fr

Walsingham, L. & Atkins, S. (2006) A new species of *Vitex* (Labiatae) from Tanzania. Kew Bull. 61, 615-617.

