

# *Adansonia rubrostipa* Jum. & H. Perrier

Fony - *Adansonia fony* Baill. ex H. Perrier

Large overstory tree. Common in Kirindy forest.



## Description

*Stature:* massive unbranched trunk which is cylindrical, bottle-shaped, or, rarely, tapering, usually with a distinct constriction beneath the branches. Crown is irregular, major branches are usually horizontal becoming erect distally.

*Size:* small to tall tree to 20 m.

*Bark:* thin, usually reddish brown and exfoliating (peeling).

*Leaves:* (3-)5-foliolate.

*Flower:* large showy flowers that produce loads of nectar, visited by long-tongued hawkmoths *Coelonia solanii*.

*Fruit:* large, reddish brown and spherical with a thin stalk.

*Seed:* variable to 16 mm.

## Malvaceae

### Striking features

- Bottle-shaped with constriction beneath the branches.
- Globular fruits.
- Purplish bark with thin layer peeling in places.



## Ecology

*Status and distribution:* Common and widespread along the West coast zone north to near Mahajanga.

*Habitat requirements:* In spiny forest and dry deciduous forest on well-drained calcareous soils and on karstic limestone. In Kirindy, on intermediate (red & yellow) soils.

*Phenology:* deciduous. In leaf November to April. Flowers February to April. Flowers are open 4 days, receptive for one day. Fruits ripe October-November.

*Kirindy:* Much more common in Kirindy forest than *A. za*.

*Reproduction:* The fruit has a tough, indehiscent pericarp. Hydrochory, a common feature in the genus, is unlikely because *A. rubrostipa* rarely occurs near rivers or streams.



## Uses

Spongy wood, not a timber species. Bark used for roofing and to make small ropes.

Although the fruits, seeds, and roots are edible, they are little used. Fruits are sometimes sold in Toliara market.

Sought after edible fungus are said to grow on dead trunks.

## Sources and further information

*General:* Baum (1995)

*Botanical description:* Baum (1995)

*Forestry:*

*Kirindy:* Anon. (1993) no. 114 & 215, Baum (1995)

*Herbarium specimen:*