

Berchemia discolor (Klotzsch) Hemsl.

Tsiandala, sabe, borodokandroy - *Araliorhamnus vaginata* H. Perrier

Rhamnaceae

Striking features

- very rough bark.
- Leaves have strikingly parallel secondary veins (i.e. midrib to margin).



Description

Stature: trunk often not straight.

Size: large tree.

Bark: very rough and vertically fissured.

Leaves: simple and entire (to 3 x 9 cm). Sub-opposite or opposite.

Flower: single flower or in small axillary inflorescences.

Fruit: Drupe (1-2 cm long), yellowish when ripe. Kernel contains 2 hard seeds.

Seed:



Ecology

Status and distribution: single species in Madagascar that is also found in Africa. Occurs throughout the dry and subarid forests and thickets of western and southern Madagascar.

Habitat requirements: Light-demanding species.

Phenology:

Kirindy: not very common. On brown soils and vertisol.

Reproduction:



Uses

Fruits can be eaten fresh and a drink can be made from the pulp.

The wood is very hard and can be used for a variety of purposes. Species not well known in region.

Sources and further information

General:

Botanical description: Abraham (1991) p 113. Flore de Madagascar No. 123, p 8 as *Araliorhamnus vaginata*

Forestry:

Kirindy: Anon. (1993) no. 160 & 204.

Herbarium specimen:

Fruit and twig (Source: http://www.efloras.org/object_page.aspx?object_id=61424&flora_id=12)