

Neobeguea mahafaliensis Leroy

Handy, hazolava

Large timber tree.



Description

Stature: irregular crown with tortuous branches.

Size: large tree to 20m, but often only to around 12m.

Bark: thin and smooth, patchwork of brown/orange to cream patches where bark has flaked off.

Leaves: large imparipinnate leaves.

Flower: in compound inflorescence.

Fruit: dehiscent globular fruit (2-3cm in diameter) with 3 compartments.

Seed: 3-4 winged seeds per compartment.

Meliaceae

Striking features

- smooth bark with mosaic of brown/orange and cream patches.



Ecology

Status and distribution: forest in southwestern region North to Belo Antsalova.

Habitat requirements: sandy soils with good drainage. Light demanding.

Phenology: deciduous. Flowering September-October. Fruiting June-July.

Kirindy: On very dry soils.

Reproduction: wind-dispersed.



Uses

Timber tree with a fairly fine grain. Durable timber that is used for many purposes including flooring and luxury furniture. Bark used as an aphrodisiac and in traditional medicine against kidney complaints.

Sources and further information

General:

Botanical description: Abraham (1991) p 37.

Forestry: Grisa (1987)

Kirindy: Anon. (1993) no. 158&213.

Herbarium specimen: