

Strychnos madagascariensis (Pappe) Gilg

Tsivonino - *Strychnos vacacoua* Baillon

Common large tree that is easily recognisable when in fruit.



Description

Stature: trunk at times slightly furrowed.

Size: large tree. Crown with moderate branching.

Bark: smoothish bark with grey to greenish patches.

Leaves: deciduous. Simple, opposite, variable leaves (2-10 x 1-4 cm).

Flower: hermaphrodite trees with axillary or terminal inflorescences bearing many small flowers.

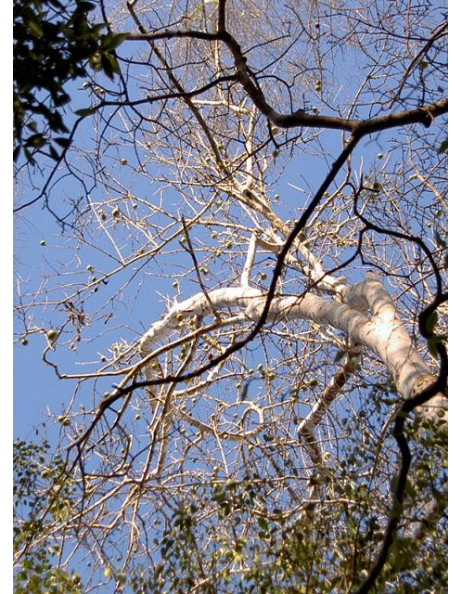
Fruit: large (2-8 cm in diam), woody, indehiscent, round, green drupe that turns brown when ripe. An orange edible pulp surrounds 5-55 seeds.

Seed: irregularly shaped to ca 2 cm.

Loganiaceae

Striking features

- lime-size, round, green fruits (brown when ripe)
- grey to greenish bark.



Ecology

Status and distribution: Common in western Madagascar.

Habitat requirements:

Phenology: deciduous.

Kirindy: common species (ca 10 & 7% in respectively N5 & CS7), usually bearing green fruits in November.

Reproduction: Dispersed by lemurs but regeneration is enhanced in forest fragments where dispersers are absent (Dausmann 2008).



Uses

The fruit is often harvested as the pulp surrounding the seed is edible. The species is sometimes cultivated in parts of Madagascar. Root extract is rubbed on the skin to cure inflammations and wounds.

Sources and further information

General:

Botanical description: Flore de Madagascar 167, p 85, Schatz (2005) p 233.

Kirindy: Anon. (1993) no. 381, Dausmann (2008).

Herbarium specimen: