

Tamarindus indica (Jumelle) Capuron

Kily

Fabaceae

Striking features

Large tree found mainly close to the main river.



Description

Stature: mature trees have spreading rounded crowns.

Size: large tree to 30m and stem diameter of 1m.

Bark: rough and grey-brown.

Leaves: alternate, pinnate to 12 cm with .10-20 pairs of opposite, entire and asymmetrical leaflets.

Flower: 5 to 10 large flowers in a cyme. Large, yellow speckled with red.

Fruit: Legume to 15cm long are regularly constricted. They contain 1-10 seeds.

Seed: shiny brown and surrounded by an acidic pulp.



Ecology

Status and distribution: Western part of Madagascar. Widely cultivated. Also present in NE Africa and invasive in other parts of the world. Status in Madagascar unclear, perhaps not native.

Habitat requirements: good drainage.

Phenology: deciduous in drier areas.

Kirindy: Deciduous. Flowers in November. Particularly found along stream embankments.

Reproduction:



Uses

Widely used as a shade tree.

Pulp of fruits widely eaten or used to make a refreshing drink.

Wood has a variety of uses but is specially sought after to make charcoal.

Sources and further information

General: Blaser et. al. (1993)

Botanical description: Abraham (1991) p 49, Schatz (2003) p 205.

Forestry:

Kirindy:

Herbarium specimen: