

Zanthoxylum tsihanimposa H. Perrier

Monongo a grosses branches

Uncommon large tree with spiny trunk.



Description

Stature:

Size: Large tree to height of 30 m and diameter of 1 m.

Bark: smooth bark dotted with sharp sturdy spines.

Leaves: paripinnate to 35 cm long. 12 to 26 pairs of opposite leaflets. Leaves are alternate and clustered at the end of twigs. Strong smell like that of grated carrots or lemon.

Flower: numerous, small unisexual flowers on mainly axillary inflorescences.

Fruit: small (to 8 mm) semi-woody, dehiscent, single-seeded capsule.

Seed: shiny black.

Rutaceae

Striking features

- smooth trunk dotted with sharp, sturdy spines.



Ecology

Status and distribution: pantropical genus with 5-6 Malagasy endemics.

Zanthoxylum tsihanimposa found in the central Western dry region.

Habitat requirements: occurs both on calcareous ground and siltstone.

Phenology: deciduous. Leaves appear after flowering. Flowering September-November. Leaves: November-May. Fruitng: December.

Kirindy: In Kirindy, on intermediate (red & yellow) soils. Uncommon near camp.

Reproduction:

Uses

The wood has multiple uses but suffers from wood worms. Poor resistance to termite and fungus attacks. Used as a medicinal plant.

Sources and further information

General:

Botanical description: Abraham (1991) p 83, Schatz (2005) p 350, Flore de Madagascar No 104.

Forestry: Grisa (1987)

Kirindy: Anon. (1993) no. 71 & 434.

Herbarium specimen: