



Trees of Mount Amanzi

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- 39 Witstinkhout / White-stinkwood
(*Celtis Africana*)
- 42 Hophout / Pigeonwood
(*Trema Orientalis*)
- 48 Gewone Wildevy / Common Wild Fig
(*Ficus Burkei*)
- 50 Besemtrosvy / Broomcluster Fig
(*Ficus Sur*)
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- 161 Swartapiesdoring / Black Monkey Thorn
(*Acacia Burkei*)
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(*Acacia Caffra*) (*Wag-'n-bietjiedoring*)
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- 301 (Bosveld) Rooiessenhout / Natal Mahogany
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Trees of Mount Amanzi

When last did you appreciate the trees around you?

When last did you think - thank you for the cool shade and making oxygen for me to breathe! Thank you that my loved ones and I can enjoy a picnic under the protection of your branches and thank you for inviting the birds to nest in you at night and delight us with their song in the day.

166 – ACACIA GALPINII Apiesdoring / Monkey Thorn

SEEN IT HUGGED IT

The Acacia Galpinii is the largest of the South African Acacia species. The common name, Monkey Thorn, is thought to refer to the tendency of monkeys to seek refuge in these thorny trees and their fondness of feeding on the pods. The Tswana name "Mongangatau" means "the one that catches like a lion" and is attributed to the thorns that tend to catch on clothing and skin. In its natural habitat, the Acacia Galpinii is preferred by large animals such as giraffe, kudu and elephant to provide shelter from the sun.

The Acacia Galpinii is widely recognised as an indicator of sweet veld, which retains its nutritional value through winter. The wood, which is heavy and coarse grained, was used for building wagons and although the wood is difficult to work, it was often used for making good sturdy furniture. When grown from seed, the Monkey Thorn is a popular subject with Bonsai enthusiasts as it can be easily trained into a variety of interesting shapes.



187 – ACACIA SIEBERIANA VAR. WOODII Papierbasdoring / Paperbark Thorn

SEEN IT HUGGED IT

The Acacia Sieberiana is arguably one of our most magnificent Acacias. Pied and Crested Barbets make nesting holes in the tree whilst the flowers lure beetles, bees and butterflies, attracting insectivorous birds such as the bar throated Apolis as well as white bellied, black and collared sunbirds. Throughout Africa the tree has traditionally been valued for its medicinal properties. The leaves, bark and resin are used for a variety of ailments including inflammatory conditions and chest complaints. The edible gum makes an excellent adhesive whilst twine, made from the inner bark is used to thread beads. The wood is widely used for tool handles and mortars.



162 – ACACIA CAFFRA Wag-'n-bietjiedoring / Common Hook Thorn

SEEN IT HUGGED IT



(North Sotho) Motholo (Tsonga) Mbvhinya-xihloka (Tswana) Moruthhare (Xhosa) umThole, umNyamanzi (Zulu) umTholo.

Common Hook Thorn Acacia is distributed in the eastern half of our country and grows most readily on rocky hill slopes where it can occur in large groups. It is one of the first trees to come out in new green foliage in spring, and the leaves turn yellow and drop early in autumn. Generally this is the least thorny of the Acacias in South Africa; although younger trees and branches tend to have more thorns (5 mm). The wood is hard and makes good fence posts. It is also used to make tobacco pipes. The bark was used for tanning, and the bark, leaves and roots were believed to have magical properties, used to cleanse the blood and to treat abdominal disorders in infants. This tree is still used in traditional medicine today. This is a good fodder tree, the new leaves being particularly palatable.

39 – CELTIS AFRICANA Witstinkhout / White-stinkwood

SEEN IT HUGGED IT



The inconspicuous, star shaped greenish flowers appear in spring. The male and female flowers appear on the same tree, the male flowers appearing at the base of the leaves while the female or bisexual flowers appear in the leaf axils.

The masses of berry-like fruit on 13mm stalks, follows the flowers from October to February and, as the fruit ripens, changes colour from yellow to brown and then to black.

The round seeds are brown and are usually distributed by birds that feed on the berries.

The White Stinkwood is not related to the True Stinkwood (Ocotea Bullata) but derived its name from the lightly coloured wood and the unpleasant smell of the freshly cut parts of the tree. The yellowish to white wood is of medium hardness, strong and polishes well. It is used for shelving, yokes, tent bows and furniture. Indigenous peoples have long used Celtis Africana for a variety of household objects and believe that it has magical properties.

Look at a tree when you lose hope.

First it was a seed below the ground and only with patience it was able to touch the sky above.

261 – VEPRIS LANCEOLATE
Witysterhout / White-ironwood

SEEN IT HUGGED IT

The generic name Vepris originated from the Latin word *Vepra* meaning a bramble or thorny shrub. The word *Lanceolata* refers to the shape of the leaflets. Three different species of caterpillars of the Swallowtail Butterfly family feed on this tree and the best known of the species is the Citrus Swallowtail Butterfly, *Papilio Demodocus*. It is also reported that porcupines eat the bark and ultimately ring-bark the trees, causing them to die. A number of bird species have been noted to love the fruits, such as the Redwinged Starling and the Crested Barbet. Traditionally the powdered roots are used for influenza and colic and the leaves are burnt to dispel evil spirits. The wood is used to produce wheel spokes, handles, roof beams, furniture, ornaments and turnery.



447 – ZIZIPHUS MUCRONATA
Blinkblaar-wag-'n-bietjie / Buffalo Thorn

SEEN IT HUGGED IT

umPhafa, umLahlankosi, isiLahla (isiZulu); umPhafa (isiXhosa); umLahlabantu (Swazi); mokgalo (Tswana); mutshetshete (Venda); mphasamhala (Tsonga); mokgalô, moonaoana (N Sotho)
The Wag-'n-Bietjie tree represents life as we know it. During the Anglo-Boer war, the seeds were ground and used as a coffee substitute. Africans have many beliefs and superstitions attached to this tree. Zulus and Swazis use the Buffalo Thorn in connection with burial rites. It was once customary that when a Zulu chief died, the tree was planted on his grave as a reminder or symbol of where the chief lies. Hence the name umLahlankosi- that which buries the chief. A twig from the tree was and is still used to attract and carry the spirit of the deceased from the place of death to the new resting place. When a stock owner died, and was buried according to custom, within the cattle or goat kraal, some branches were placed on the grave so that the animals nibbled on leaves and twigs, and so understood that their master had died (Palmer and Pitman 1972). In other parts, Africans drag a branch round the village to protect it from evil spirits, as it is believed to keep evil spirits away. In Botswana as well as most parts of South Africa, the residents believed the Buffalo Thorn to be immune against lightning, anyone standing under one in a storm would be safe. It is also believed that if it is felled in summer, a drought, hail or lightning will certainly follow. The elasticity of the shoots makes it suitable for bows and whip sticks.



532 - CONBRETUM APICULATUM
Rooiboswilg / Red Bushwillow

SEEN IT HUGGED IT

Umbondwe (Zulu), Imbondvo (Swazi), Mohwidiri (Tswana), Mohwelere (Sepedi)
Red bushwillow is a widespread species in Africa, growing from KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga and Limpopo (South Africa) to Botswana, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and other parts of tropical Africa. Its fruit pose a threat to livestock, especially the seeds which are poisonous. For human uses: The wood is very hard, making it resistant to both borers and termites; it provides useful fencing poles and makes good firewood but as the pieces are not large, they can only be used to make small items of furniture. The bark is used for tanning leather.



Trees are the lungs of earth

42 – TREMA ORIENTALIS
Hophout / Pigeonwood

SEEN IT HUGGED IT

umVumvu, umVangazi, uPhakane (Xhosa), modutu (Northern Sotho)
Flowers are pollinated by bees. Fruits are eaten by birds such as White-Eyes, Forest Canaries and pigeons, and by fruit bats. Kudu and giraffe browse the foliage. At least 14 species of butterfly use *Trema Orientalis* as a larval food plant. Pigeons are often seen nesting and roosting in these trees. The young leaves are eaten as "spinach" by the Zulu people, who also use the roots and bark as traditional medicine. Fruit, leaves, bark, stems, twigs and seeds are used in traditional medicine in West Africa, Tanzania, East Africa and Madagascar. In the forests of the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, *Trema Orientalis* is a common pioneer and forest-edge tree and is often used as traditional roof supports. It is considered a desirable tree to have near the village, attracting large flocks of pigeons, which are hunted as food. Pegs made from the wood of *Trema Orientalis* are often driven into the ground near fields to keep them from harm. An excellent string can be made from the bark. It was formerly used for tying assegai heads to the shafts. Bark has also been used for waterproofing fishing lines. Handling of the tree sometimes causes eczema.
The wood is very light and somewhat stringy, pinkish in colour, and has not been used for much, except for things like brake-blocks for wagons in the old days, and fruit boxes.



215 – PELTOPHORUM AFRICANUM
Huilboom / Africa Whattle

SEEN IT HUGGED IT

This tree has many uses. Young leaves and pods are eaten by livestock. Flowers provide a high yield of nectar and pollen for bee-keeping. The timber can be used for furniture. The wood is good for fuel. It makes a good shade tree for both livestock and humans. There are also various medicinal uses recorded. Roots are used to heal wounds, toothache and throat sores; root, leaves and bark used to clear intestinal parasites and relieve stomach problems; bark relieves colic; stem and root used for diarrhoea and dysentery. It is also used to treat eyes.



Storms make trees take deeper roots

450 - BERCHEMIA ZEYHERI

Rooi-ivoor / Red Ivory



SEEN IT



HUGGED IT

Monee (Northern Sotho), Moye (Tswana), umNini (Xhosa)

The tree normally grows in dense groups with other trees, reaching 15m in height and is very attractive to birds. It is mostly found in the northern part of South Africa in the province of Limpopo, where local people sell the fruit in the street. The sapwood is yellowish with a hard and heavy heartwood. It has grey-brown bark, with light grey, corky dots on young branches. The bark is smooth on young trees but becomes cracked on older branches and stems. The leaves have a thin texture and are a blue-green colour. They have reddish leaf stalks and in colder areas the leaves turn yellow in autumn. The venation is in a herringbone pattern. Red ivorywood occurs naturally from Zimbabwe in the north to the Easter Cape in the south. The sticky, sweet, dried fruits can still be eaten after several months. The fruits are a food source to wild animals such as baboons, vervet monkeys, bushbabies and many others. Birds such as Black-eyed bulbuls, Crested Pied and Black-collared barbets, Redwinged Starlings, Grey Louries, Rameron and Green Pigeons, also feed on the fruit. The birds play very important role in the distribution of seeds. Leaves are browsed by Giraffe, Eland, Kudu, Nyala, Bushbuck and Impala. Porcupines eat the bark, which can cause damage to the tree.

The fruit is sold in rural markets, especially in Limpopo, and creates an important source of income. Furniture made from this tree is very strong, durable, and takes paint and varnish well. The wood is also good for making wooden bows, walking sticks, small boxes and curios. It is believed that in KwaZulu-Natal the tree was known as the royal tree because only chiefs were allowed to carry knob-keries (a stick with a rounded knob on one end) made from it. The hard and strong wood is regarded as a precious timber in Mozambique and is also used as fencing poles. Fibres and woven materials are dyed with an extract made from the bark to give them a purplish colour. The powdered bark is also used to cure headaches when smoked and an extract from the inner part of the tree was used to relieve back pain.



443 - PAPPEA CAPENSIS

Doppruim / Jacketplum



SEEN IT



HUGGED IT

umVuna, iNdaba (Zulu); iliTye, umGqalutye (Xhosa)

The red fruit of this tree is a tasty treat for humans and a firm favourite with birds and animals. A fine oil is extracted from the seeds. The jacket plum is related to the litchi and is a natural addition for the bird or wildlife garden. It is easily cultivated, although slow-growing in colder climates.

The delicious and very juicy fruit with a tart flavour is used to make preserve, jelly, vinegar and an alcoholic drink.

Fragrant non-drying golden yellow oil is extracted from the roasted seeds. There are reports of it being used for oiling rifles. It is also used as a purgative and for lubrication, as a cure for ringworm, to restore hair, as well as for making soap.

Leaves, bark and the oil extracted from the seed are used medicinally against baldness, ringworm, nosebleeds, chest complaints, eye infections, and venereal disease. Bark is also used in protective charms that are sprinkled on the ground. Some research has reported that the leaves are very effective in killing snails.

Infusions of the bark are also used by Kenyan Masai warriors to gain courage as well as an aphrodisiac and a blood-strengthening tonic.



386 - SEARSIA LANCEA

Karee / Karee



SEEN IT



HUGGED IT

umHlakotshane (IsiXhosa), mokalabata (Sesotho sa Leboa), Mosinabele (Sesotho) Mosabele; Mosilabele (Setswana), Mushakaladza (Tshivenda), iNhlanguatshane (siSwati)

Its sweet scented flowers attract bees and other insects while its fruit is eaten by birds such as bulbuls, guinea fowl and francolins. Game animals such as kudu, Roan antelope and sable browse the leaves of the tree which can serve as an important food source for them in times of drought. This tree is hardy, frost resistant and evergreen. The bark, twigs and leaves contain tannin. The wood is hard and was used for fence posts, tool handles, wagon parts, bowls, pipes and bows. The fruits are edible and were used as an ingredient for honey beer.



Learn character from trees,
values from roots,
and change from leaves

50 - FICUS SUR

Besemtrosvy / Broomcluster Fig



SEEN IT



HUGGED IT

This interesting group of trees contains members who have different methods of survival. In the group known as Strangler Figs, a seed germinates in the leaf litter accumulated in another tree, usually in the axis between two branches. The fig sapling develops roots down the trunk of the host tree until reaching the ground. Once the roots enter the ground the fig grows aggressively and strangles its host, eventually causing its demise and occupying its place in the forest.

Another group known as Rock Splitters are highly adept at germinating in tiny cracks or fissures in inhospitable rock faces and cliffs. They exert tremendous hydraulic pressure with their roots splitting the rocks apart to make space for their expanding and aggressive root system.

Reproduction in the fig family is interesting in that the fig we know and eat is not a fruit but rather an inside-out flower stalk (Syconium) containing many flowers inside the fruit-like structure. It is a closed structure with only a small opening at one end through which a small female wasp enters and lays her eggs in special infertile flowers, while inadvertently pollinating the fertile flowers and gathering pollen in special sacs. She then leaves through the opening again and carries the pollen to another fig. It is also very interesting that each species of fig has its own specific species of wasp that pollinates it.

The seed is small and swallowed together with the fruit by the many birds and mammals which greedily consume it. It is then passed in the faeces normally some distance away from the parent tree, effectively distributing the species further afield.



The inner bark is used to make rope while lung and throat problems are treated using the milky latex found in live growth. The milky latex is also administered to cows with poor milk production. The tree is also used as a magical cure for boils.

362 – LANNEA DISCOLOUR

Dikbas / Live-long



SEEN IT

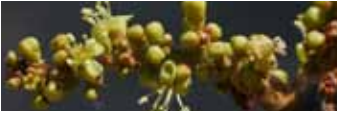


HUGGED IT



The Live Long is a deciduous tree. Grows up to 15m tall in open woodland and rocky slopes.

The bark is coppery-grey and not very rough. The leaves appear after the flowers which appear in early spring. The Live Long fruits in early summer. The fruit is ovoid, grows in sprays and is purple when ripe. The Live Long is very easy to propagate. A truncheon planted will take root and grow very quickly. Remedies for constipation and fever have been made from bark and roots of the Live Long tree. The wood is very soft and easy to carve.



245 – ERYTHRINA LYSISTEMON

Koraal Boom / Coral Tree



SEEN IT



HUGGED IT



It is an important component of the ecosystem, providing food and shelter for a variety of birds, animals and insects. Many birds and insects feed on the nectar. Vervet Monkeys eat the flower buds. Kudu, klipspringer, black rhino and baboons graze on the leaves. Black rhinos, elephants and baboons eat the bark. Bush pigs eat the roots, and the Brown-Headed Parrot eats and disperses the seed. Birds such as barbets and woodpeckers nest in the trunks of dead trees, and swarms of bees often inhabit hollow trunks.

Erythrina Lysistemon is also widely used and enjoyed by mankind. They have been regarded as royal trees, and were planted on the graves of Zulu chiefs. They were planted as living fences around kraals, homesteads and waterholes, and were one of the first wild trees to be planted in gardens in South Africa. They are still to be found in many gardens, and are planted as street trees in many towns. The wood is light and cork-like when dry and has been used for making canoes, rafts and floats for fishing, as well as for troughs and brake-blocks. It has also been used to make shingles for roofing, as the wood is durable when tarred. The flowering of the trees has been, and still is, a good signal to the people that it is time to plant their crops.



351 – EUPHORBIA INGENS

Naboom / Naboom



SEEN IT



HUGGED IT



An upright, succulent tree with a dark green crown which is well rounded and often shaped like a hot-air balloon. Grows up to 12 m. The flowers attract butterflies, bees and other insects, which collect pollen and nectar from them, pollinating the trees in the process. The seeds are a good source of food for many fruit and berry eating birds. Birds also like nesting in these trees; hole-nesting birds such as woodpeckers often use dead sections.

The latex of this tree is extremely toxic and can cause severe skin irritations, blindness and severe illness to humans and animals if swallowed

These plants are easy to grow and make a wonderful addition to a succulent garden or rockery. As it is a succulent it needs little to no maintenance, being a very hardy plant. It does best in the open sun, needing very little water and can therefore withstand periods of drought. Because of its poisonous latex/sap no pests seem to bother these trees.



536 – COMBRETUM ERYTHROPHYLLUM

Riviervaderlandswilg / River Bushwillow



SEEN IT



HUGGED IT



Cerythrophyllum occurs naturally along river banks.

This tree can grow up to one meter per year if given good soil and sufficient water. Offers good shade after about four years.

Attracts a variety of butterflies and birds. The wood is highly versatile for carpentry as it is tough, easily worked and a pleasant yellow in colour. As a traditional medicine, the fruits are often used as a de-worming remedy, however it must be noted that the seeds are poisonous and cause severe hiccups.



Other trees identified



594 – EUCLEA CRISPA (Bloughwarrie / Blue Guarri)



601 – EUCLEA UNDULATA (Gewone Ghwarrie / Common Guarri)



48 – FICUS BURKEI (Gewone Wildevy / Common Wild Fig)



50 – FICUS SUR (Besemtrosvy / Broom Cluster Fig)



399 – GYMNOSPORA BUXIFOLIA (Pendoring / Spikethorn)



678 – KIGELIA AFRICANA (Worsboom / Sausagetree)



360 – SCLEROCAYA BIRREA (Maroela / Marula)



301 – TRICHILIA EMETIC (Bosveldrooinessenhout / Bushveld Natal-mahogany)



702 – VANGUERIA INFAUSTA (Wildemispel / Wild-medlar)



161 – ACACIA BURKEI (Swartapiesdoring / Black Monkey Thorn)



667 – CLERODENDRUM GLABRUM (Tontelhout / Tinderwood)



546 – COMBRETUM ZEYHERI (Raasblaar / Large-fruited Bushwillow)



190 – DICHROSTACHYS CINEREA (Sekelbos / Sicklebush)



603 – DDIOSPYROS DICHROPHYLLA (Star-apple / Sterappel)