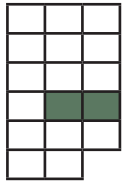


Albizia schimperiana

Fabaceae



Indigenous

Am: *Sassa, Imasa, Sembaru*

Eng: *Large-podded albizia*

Or: *Ambabessa, Mukarba, Muka arta, Sasa, Vungo, Shimoro, Gorbe, Karchafe*

Ecology

A dominant tree in the upper canopy of wet lowland or lower highland forests in Moist and Wet Weyna Dega agroclimatic zones of most regions, 1400–2000 m.

Uses

Firewood, charcoal, timber (joinery, plywood, matchboxes and construction), medicine (infusion of the roots), fodder (leaves and pods), bee forage, shade, nitrogen fixation, soil conservation.

Description

A large semi-deciduous tree that grows to 25 m or more, the crown more rounded than flat. BARK: Smooth grey or rough brown. LEAVES: Compound, on a stalk about 25 cm long, generally hairy and paler below, shiny dark green above, one leaflet less than 2 cm long, 4–7 pairs of pinnae, the leaflets varying in shape but the midrib a diagonal and the tips rounded. FLOWERS: Very many, white, in round heads. FRUIT: Large clusters of dull brown pods, hang on the tree for a long time. Each pod about 25 cm long by 3.5 cm across (maximum 34 x 6 cm), the edge thickened. Seeds released when the pods break open.

Propagation

Seedlings, wildings.

Seed

Treatment: Not necessary.

Storage: Can be stored but is susceptible to insect attack.

Management

Coppicing, pruning or lopping of branches to reduce shade.

Remarks

Pods persist for a long time on the tree where they may split open to release the seed.

