

Commiphora guillaumini H. Perrier

Arofy be ravina

Common large canopy tree that is readily noticed in much of the forest.



Description

Stature: large trees are up to 400 years old.

Size: large canopy tree.

Bark: Fine papery brown outer bark peeling to reveal green bark.

Leaves: alternate, imparipinnate to 25cm.

Flower: dioecious, male inflorescences are larger than females.

Fruit: ovoid fleshy drupe to 1.5cm containing a single seed.

Seed: seeds are about 1cm in diameter and partly enveloped by a fleshy red aril-like endocarp.

Burseraceae

Striking features

- Papery brown outer bark peeling to reveal green bark.



Ecology

Status and distribution: This genus has 190 species in the tropics and there are 20 Malgasy species.

Commiphora guillaumini is very common in western Malgasy dry forests.

Habitat requirements:

Phenology: Flowering: October to November. Fruiting: January to April.

Kirindy: Common in CS7 (3.4% of stems ≥ 5 cm). In Kirindy, on intermediate (red & yellow) soils.

Reproduction: Pollination mostly by insects but birds also visit the flowers. Fruits are bird-dispersed but poorly so resulting in clumping of individuals.

Much planted on old logging tracks.

Uses

Formerly it was an important timber species (up to 80% of the exploited timber).

The wood has a fine grain. It is fairly durable but not resistant to termites. Used for a variety of purposes.

Sources and further information

General:

Botanical description: Abraham (1991) p 25.

Forestry: Grisa (1987)

Kirindy: Anon. (1993) no. 10 & 283, Bleher & Böhning-Gaese (2001), Farwig et al. (2004), Ganzhorn (2003).

Herbarium specimen: www.aluka.org, www.efloras.org