

# *Rhus chirendensis*

**Common names:** English Red Currant, Afrikaans bostaaibos, Zulu Inhlokoshiyane-enkulu, umhlabamvubu, ikhathabane, umdwelencuba, Xhosa umhlakothi.

**Description:** shrub to tall tree, often straggling 3 to 20 metres often deciduous and widespread in forests and forest margins.

**Distribution:** Southern Cape, the eastern coast of eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal through to Mpumalanga and Limpopo. It is also found in Swaziland, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. It grows in moist and dry areas, even at high altitudes.

**Bark:** Smooth.

**Stem:** sometimes multi-stemmed. Young and coppicing stems armed with woody spines. Tree easily grown from truncheons.

**Leaves:** large, tri-foliate, terminal leaflets with short stalk, smooth, glossy dark green, tapering to drip tip with fine hair like point, midrib pinkish. Stalk up to 70 mm long, pinkish-red. Young leaves reddish.

**Flowers:** minute yellowish-green, in axillary and terminal misty heads, up to 20 cm long, near the ends of the branchlets. Blossoms between November to December.

**Fruit:** up to 5mm in diameter, thinly fleshy, yellowish-pink becomes shiny red when mature (November to February). The tree is attractive when fruiting. The wood is red, heavy and strong with an attractive sheen; it has considerable potential and widely used.

**Uses:** leaves and bark browsed by black rhino. Fruit favoured by monkeys and birds. Heartwood is used for furniture. Sap used as a cure for heart ailments.



## Trees of the year 2003



# *Pterocarpus angolensis*

**Common names:** *English:* Wild Teak or Blood wood; *Afrikaans:* Kiaat; *Zulu:* UmVangazi; Umbilo

**Description:** Medium size to large tree up to 20 metres in height occurring along coastal areas but is also found in high lying areas.

**Distribution** mainly in the woodlands of Kwazulu-Natal, Mpumalanga, North West, Limpopo and areas in Gauteng. It is also found in Swaziland, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana and even Namibia.

**Stems:** mainly single stem but can develop multiple stems.

**Bark:** dark grey to brown, rough and longitudinal fissured.

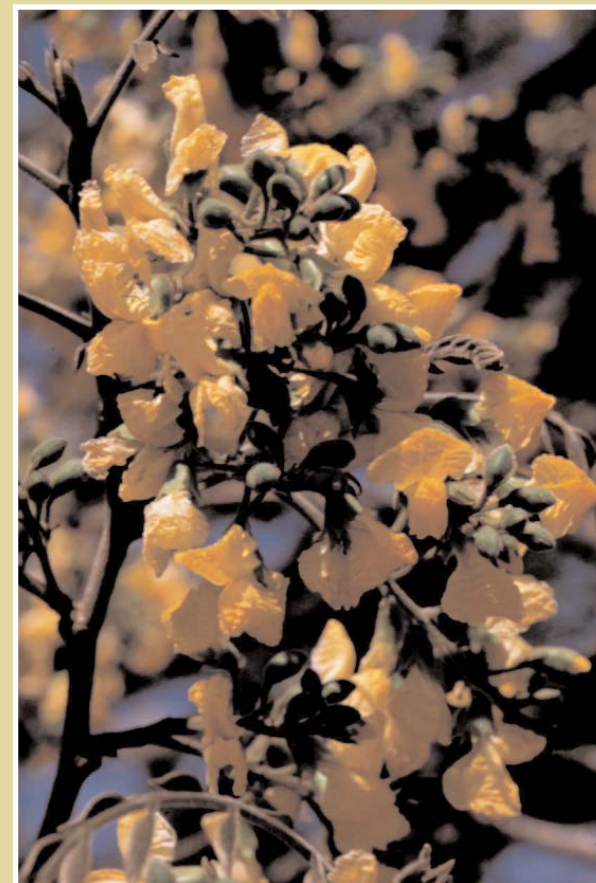
**Leaves:** compound with 5 to 9 pairs of sub-opposite to alternate leaflets. Leaves are shiny pale-green with velvety hairs beneath and on stalks, wavy margins and conspicuous parallel side veins.

**Flowers:** orange-yellow pear-shaped, produced in large but branched sprays (10-20cm long) and blossoms in August to December.

**Fruit:** a very distinctive light green to papery brown, circular pod, indehiscent up to 100 mm in diameter. The seed case is covered with long stiff bristles, flat wing papery wavy and in clusters. Pods do not split but remain on the tree through the winter.

**Uses :** bees use this trees for nectar and helps in cross-pollination process. Wood is used for household utensils. The sap is used a permanent dye for cloth. Medicinally the sap is used as a cure for nose bleeding. It is used mixed with fats as an ointment for anointing the body.

The bark is used for several purposes including treating gonorrhoea, malaria and also treatment for black water fever.



**DEPARTMENT: WATER AFFAIRS  
AND FORESTRY**