

Combretum bracteosum

Common names: Hiccup Nut, Hikklimop.

Description: A small to medium sized tree, 3 to 10m in height, occasionally bushy and shrub-like.

Distribution: Occurring at medium to low altitude in dry open woodland.

Bark: Grey to dark grey or brownish-grey smooth becoming scaly and rough with age.

Leaves: Opposite, narrowly to broadly obovate-elliptic, oblong or broadly ovate, 3 to 13 X 1,5 to 8cm thinly leathery, young leaves sticky and glutinous with a varnished shine.

Flowers: Two types of flowers, yellow to creamy-green or red, heavily scented, in auxiliary spikes up to 7 X 1,5 cm. Flowering during September to February.

Fruit: Oval reddish-brown when mature. Fruiting during January to May. Old fruit present until October.

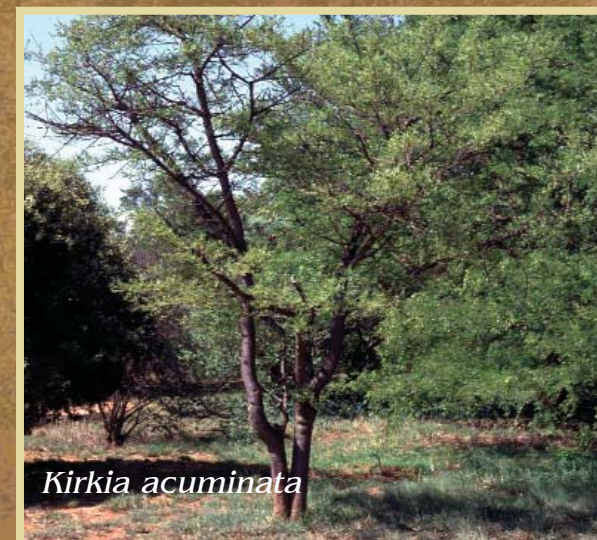
Uses: A decoction of the leaves can be used as a steam bath and also as an enema to relieve stomach disorder.



Photo's: National Botanical Institute and DWAF



Trees of the year 2004



Kirkia acuminata

Common names: White Seringa, Witsering, Modumela, Mvumayila.

Description: A deciduous straight-stemmed tree up to 20 metres in height, found in open dry woodland and rocky hill slopes and always on sandy or alluvial soils.

Distribution: Occur in all the Regions in South Africa but mainly in Mpumalanga, also in Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

Bark: Grey, smooth when young, rough with age.

Stem: Straight stemmed tree.

Leaves: Bunched at ends of branches, alternate, unevenly compound with a single leaflet at the tip, 200-400mm long and turning an attractive red color in autumn.

Flowers: Small greenish-cream, produced in many branched but rather lax heads up to 7cm long in the axils of the leaves. Flowering from October to November.

Fruit: A small light brown four valved capsule. Fruiting from January to April and onwards.

Uses: Provide shade and can be used as a fence. The roots can easily be tapped for water and the powdered root is used as a remedy for toothache.

