

Tree factsheet

images at pages 3,4

***Adansonia digitata* L.**

editor of this page: Leo Goudzwaard

taxonomy	
author, year	Linnaeus, 1759
synonym	
family	Bombacaceae
Eng. Name	African baobab, dead-rat tree, bottle tree, monkey-bread tree
other names	Momret (Ethiopia), mbuyu, mkuu hapingwa, mkuu hafungwa, muuyu (Swahili)
Dutch name	apenbroodboom
subspecies	
varieties	
hybrids	
references	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adansonia_digitata http://www.floridata.com/ref/A/adan_dig.cfm http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=ADDI3 Assogbadlo, A.E. 2006. Importance socio-economique et etude de la variabilite ecologique, morphologique, genetique et biochimique du baobab au Benin. These. Universiteit Gent, Faculteit Bio-ingenieurswetenschappen.
morphology	
crown habit	rounded, bole broad or bottle-shaped
max. height (m)	21m
max. dbh (cm)	1070
actual sizes –location, country -	
oldest tree –location-	
leaf length (cm)	
leaf petiole (cm)	
leaf colour upper surface	green
leaf colour under surface	green
leaves arrangement	palmately compound at the end of twigs
flowering	at the end of the dry season
flowering plant	monocious
flower	White
flower diameter (cm)	10.2 – 12.7
inflorescence description, length	large white hanging on stalks
pollination	bats
fruit description	pendant, grey, velvet covered, looking like dead rats, hanging from the tree
fruiting period	after the dry season
fruit; length (cm)	30
fruit petiole; length (cm)	
seed; length (cm)	brown; 1
seed-wing length (cm)	-
weight of 1000 seeds (kg)	
seeds ripen	
seed dispersal	fruit bats, elephants
seed longevity, dormancy	
habitat	
natural distribution	Africa
introduced countries	tropical climates in South America, Southern Florida, India
area natural habitat (ha)	

soil type	dry soils; well drained soils in rainy climates
water	very drought tolerant in dry season
pH-KCl	
soil fertility	
light	light demanding
temperature	tropical
"optimum natural development"	savanna and scrub
remarks	
management	
status natural range	not in the IUCN Red List
status introduced range	
application	natural tree exploited for fruit production; street and park tree in introduced countries
propagation	seed
regeneration	natural regeneration
optimal gap size for regeneration	
resprouting after cutting	
growth rate	
diseases	
insects	
ecology	
plant communities / associations	scrub or grass savanna
associated trees	
wood	
trade name	
wood structures key characteristics	
density heartwood (kg/m ³)	
elastic modulus (N/mm ²)	
total above ground biomass	
fungi class durability heartwood	
heartwood colour	
sapwood colour	
contents	
products	
market	
non-timber products	
fruits	dissolved in milk or water as a drink
leaves	as vegetable
bark	fibre



Baobab and elephant in Tanzania ©F. Reus, Holland. picture from Wikipedia.



flower and leaf of baobab in Gambia; ©Atamari, Wikipedia



baobab fruits hanging from a tree in Burkina Faso; ©M. Schmidt, Wikipedia