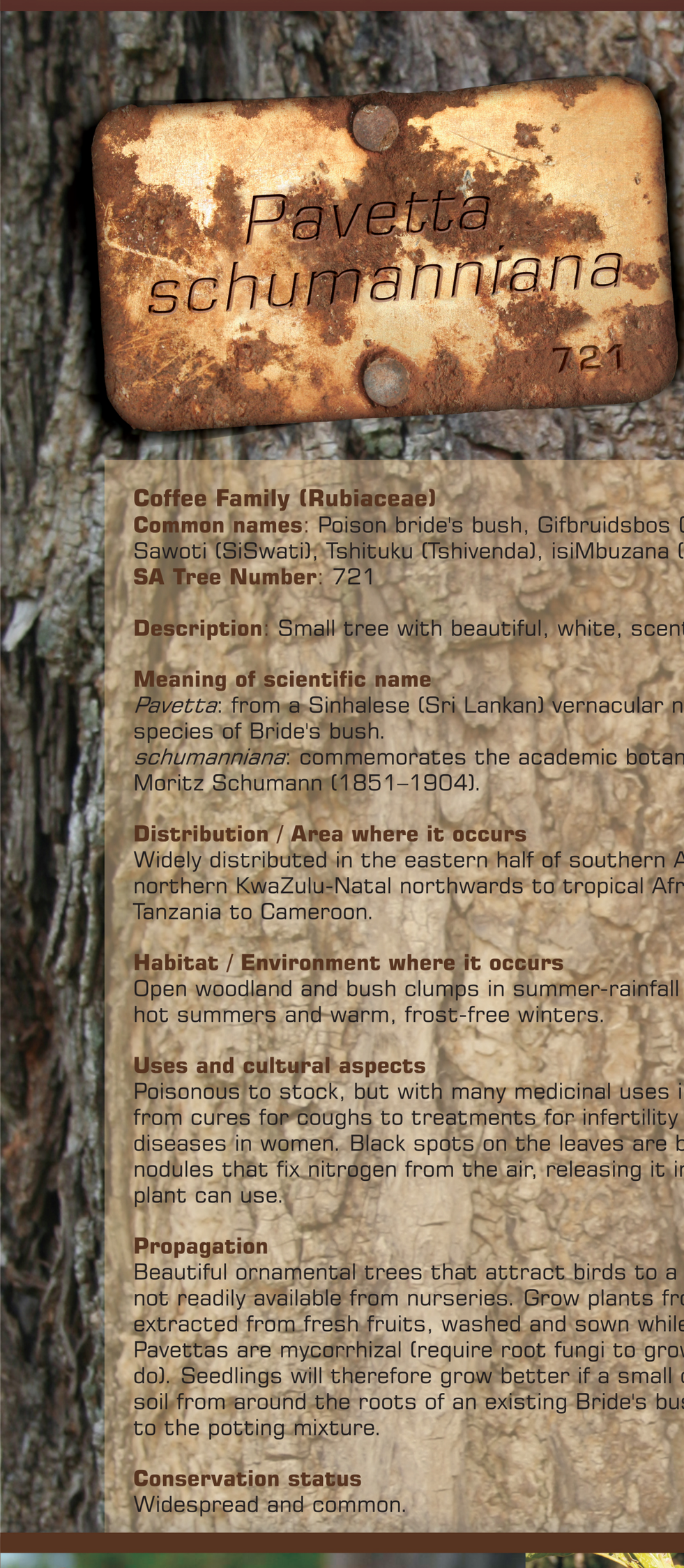
Trees of the year 2007



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Coffee Family (Rubiaceae)
Common names: Poison bride's bush, Gifbruidsbos (Afrikaans), Sawoti (SiSwati), Tshituku (Tshivenda), isiMbuzana (IsiZulu)
SA Tree Number: 721

Description: Small tree with beautiful, white, scented flowers.

Meaning of scientific name
Pavetta: from a Sinhalese (Sri Lankan) vernacular name for a species of Bride's bush.
schumanniana: commemorates the academic botanist Karl Moritz Schumann (1851–1904).

Distribution / Area where it occurs
Widely distributed in the eastern half of southern Africa, from northern KwaZulu-Natal northwards to tropical Africa, from Tanzania to Cameroon.

Habitat / Environment where it occurs
Open woodland and bush clumps in summer-rainfall areas with hot summers and warm, frost-free winters.

Uses and cultural aspects
Poisonous to stock, but with many medicinal uses in Zimbabwe, from cures for coughs to treatments for infertility and venereal diseases in women. Black spots on the leaves are bacterial nodules that fix nitrogen from the air, releasing it in a form the plant can use.

Propagation
Beautiful ornamental trees that attract birds to a garden, but not readily available from nurseries. Grow plants from seed extracted from fresh fruits, washed and sown while still wet. Pavettas are mycorrhizal (require root fungi to grow, like orchids do). Seedlings will therefore grow better if a small quantity of soil from around the roots of an existing Bride's bush is added to the potting mixture.

Conservation status
Widespread and common.

Text supplied by Hugh Glen, Giles Mbambezeli and Beate Sachse. Photographs by Geoff Nichols and Alice Aubrey.
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Rhus Family (Anacardiaceae)
Common names: Common wild currant, Fire-thorn karee, Gewone taaibos (Afrikaans), Motshakhutshakhu (Northern Sotho), Koditshane (Sesotho), Mogodiri (Setswana), Mutasiri (Tshivenda), inHlokoshiyane (IsiZulu), ntlokotshane (IsiXhosa)
SA Tree Number: 392

Description: Very variable shrub or small tree up to 7 m tall.

Meaning of scientific name:
Rhus: from Greek which means red, referring to the red autumn leaves in many species, or the striking red young leaves of some species.
pyroides: from *pyros*, meaning fire, which refers to the burning sensation caused by a prick from the spines on the branchlets, OR: 'like *Pyrus*', the pear tree.

Distribution / Area where it occurs
Widely distributed in South Africa and further to Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Mozambique.

Habitat / Environment where it occurs
From river banks, hills, open bush, forest verges and valleys to open grassland.

Uses and cultural aspects
A very useful tree in a garden that can also be used as a hedge. In rural areas the branches are used to build kraals. Dried fruit are edible and can also be used to make tea. Roots sometimes used in traditional medicine. Tswana and Kwena people use parts of the plant as an eye lotion. Leaves eaten by domestic and wild animals, and the bark relished by elephants. The host tree for the larvae of the Foxtrot copper butterfly. Wood red and tough and reputed to make excellent implement handles and fence poles.

Propagation
A very hardy, fast-growing tree suitable for highveld gardens as it is drought- and frost-resistant. Mostly deciduous, but will remain green in moderate climates and with enough moisture. Easily grown from seeds soaked in water overnight.

Conservation status
Widespread and common, not listed as protected.

