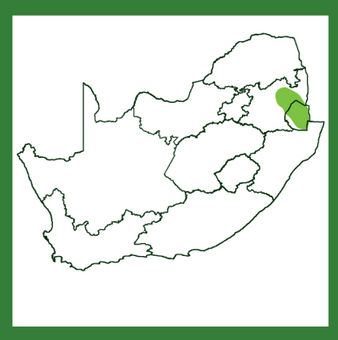
2014
TREES OF THE YEAR









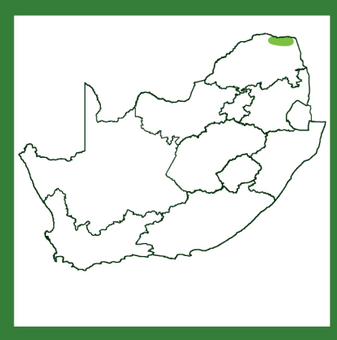


454

Heteropyxis canescens

Family: Heteropyxidaceae.
Common names: forest lavendertree (E); boslaventelboom (A).

5–15 m tree with greyish brown, flaking bark and high branching stem. Grey hairs on young branches. Leaves alternate, elliptic to narrowly elliptic, margins smooth, rolled under, glossy green above, paler and hairy below, and aromatic when crushed. Small off white, yellowish green flowers in dense, branched heads. Fruit roundish, dry capsule, ± 3 × 3 mm, pale brown. Flowers from Dec. to Jan. Easily grown from seed. Grows best in well-





455.1

Heteropyxis dehniae

Family: Heteropyxidaceae.
Common names: large-leaved lavendertree (E); grootblaarlaventelboom (A).

5–7 m slow growing tree often with crooked and twisted stem. Bark pale grey, often white, thinly flaking. Leaves narrowly elliptic, ovate to obovate, glossy light green above, dull below, margins smooth. Creamy white to yellowish fragrant flowers borne in terminal heads. Flowers from Dec. to Mar. Fruit an ellipsoid capsule, 3–4 × 2.0–2.5 mm, gland-dotted. Easily grown from seed.









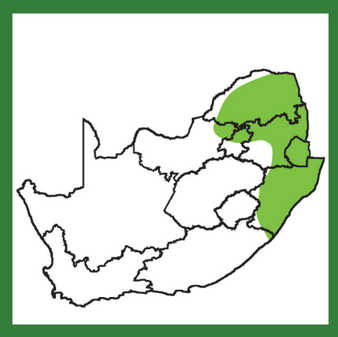
455

Heteropyxis natalensis

Family: Heteropyxidaceae.
Common names: lavendertree (E); laventelboom (A).

Up to 10 m tree with single, crooked stem. Pale, greyish white bark, flaking on old stems. Glossy leaves alternate, drooping, ± lanceolate, narrow to long tip and base, lavender-scented when crushed. Young leaves tinged red. Tiny, cream-yellow, fragrant flowers borne in terminal panicles on branches. Flowers from Dec. to Mar. Fruit small, shiny brown, oval capsules, borne in dense clusters and seeds winged. Easily grown from seed. Good container and ornamental tree.











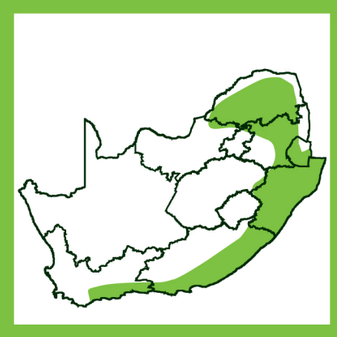
261

Vepris lanceolata

Family: Rutaceae.
Common names: white-ironwood (E); witysterhout (A).

Up to 30 m high; slightly rounded crown. Bark smooth and light grey. Wood pale yellow to whitish, hard, moderately heavy. Leaves alternate, compound with three leaflets, leathery and glossy with oil glands on the surfaces of the leaflets, lemon-scented when crushed. Flowers borne in branched terminal heads, unisexual, small, greenish yellow with only four petals. Flowers from Nov. to Mar. Decorative garden plant best propagated from seeds.





Symbol key:

- Attracts birds
- Attracts insects
- Requires full sun
- Semi-shade
- Evergreen
- Deciduous
- Frost-tender
- Frost-resistant
- Requires lots of water
- Drought-resistant
- Half frost-hardy
- Useful wood
- Medicinal use

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Text: National Herbarium, Biosystematics Research and Biodiversity Collections.
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Vepris lanceolata

National tree number: 261
Family: Rutaceae
Common names: white-ironwood (English); witysterhout (Afrikaans); masepa, mofalakwe (Sepedi); ntani (Xironga); nhatchetche (Chisena); tandzonzo (ChiShona); muruvula (Xitsonga); muhondwa (Tshivenda); umzane, umdlebe, umngamazwele (isiXhosa); umozane, isutha (isiZulu)

General appearance

- Evergreen tree, up to 30 m high; slightly rounded crown.
- Bark smooth and light grey. Wood pale yellow to whitish, hard, moderately heavy, very elastic with a fine texture.
- Leaves alternate, compound with three leaflets, leathery and glossy with oil glands on the surfaces of the leaflets and lemon-scented when crushed.
- Flowers borne in branched terminal heads, unisexual, small, greenish yellow with only four petals.
- Flowers in summer, from November to March.
- Fruit a drupe, 4-lobed, 4–6 mm in diameter, fleshy and gland-dotted, turns black when ripe.

Distribution and habitat

It occurs in dune, riverine and low-lying forest along the coast from the Western Cape along the eastern coast of Africa up to Tanzania and Kenya. It also occurs in the Indian Ocean islands of Mauritius and Réunion. In the northern part of South Africa, it is found in the woodland and escarpment forests of Mpumalanga, Limpopo, northern parts of Gauteng and northeastern parts of North-West Province.

Meaning of the name

Vepris—originate from the Latin word 'vepres', meaning a bramble or thorny shrub.
lanceolata—leaflets shaped like a small lance.

Ecology and uses

- Bark is eaten by porcupines, which often ringbark the trees causing them to die.
- Larvae of the greenbanded swallowtail (*Papilio nireus lyaeus*), whitebanded swallowtail (*Papilio echeriodes*), mocker swallowtail (*Papilio dardanus cenea*), and citrus swallowtail (*Papilio demodocus*) butterflies feed on the leaves of this tree.
- Fruits and seeds are relished by birds.
- The wood is often used for implement handles and furniture due to its elasticity and roof beams are very tough and last longer, sometimes up to 200 years.
- Powdered roots are used for the treatment of colic and influenza.
- It is also used as a substitute for cubebs (fruit of *Piper cubeba*, a spice from the East).

As a garden tree

A decorative garden plant, it prefers full sun or shade and is best propagated from seeds. It attracts butterflies and birds to the garden. Plants are drought hardy and fairly resistant to frost. Cultivated plants are often attacked by psyllid bugs, which cause galls on the leaves.







2014
TREES OF THE YEAR

SANBI Biodiversity for Life

Heteropyxis natalensis

National tree number: 455
Common names: lavendertree, weeping lavendertree, wild-lavender (English); laventeldoom, wildelaventeel (Afrikaans); Lavendelbaum (German); chisunguza, chuize (ChiNdau); masepha, mmasepha (Sepedi); mcouse (Xironga); nkhunzi, ncuze (siSwati); hatchasani, nthathasani, thathasane (Xitsonga); mudedede (Tshivenda); inkhuzwa, inkunzi, umkhuze (isiZulu)

General appearance

- Deciduous shrub or tree, up to 10 m high.
- The stem is single and crooked.
- Bark pale, greyish white, flaking on old stems; underbark pale white to orange. Wood is hard, very fine-grained, and pale pinkish brown.
- Leaves alternate, drooping, ± lanceolate, 25–90 × 10–25 mm, narrow to long tip and base, glossy, thin, light to dark green, sweetly lavender-scented when crushed. Young leaves tinged red and in autumn leaves are golden-yellow to red.
- Flowers are tiny, cream-yellow, borne in terminal panicles on branches and sweetly scented.
- Flowers in summer, from December to March.
- Fruit small, shiny, brown, oval capsules, borne in dense clusters; seeds are winged.

Distribution and habitat

Occurs in southern KwaZulu-Natal through Swaziland to northern provinces of South Africa, into Zimbabwe in bushveld, along forest margins, and rocky slopes and ridges.

Meaning of specific epithet

natalensis—from Natal.

Ecology and uses

- Flowers attract bees, wasps and butterflies.
- Bark and leaves are browsed by black rhino.
- Leaves are browsed by some antelope and used as herbal tea and for potpourri.
- Leaf infusions are used for treating colds.
- Nose bleeding and bleeding gums are treated with steam from root decoctions. Also believed to be able to stop excessive menstrual flow.

As a garden tree

Easily propagated from seeds, a good container plant and attractive ornamental tree. It is a fast grower and prefers full sun. Young trees are sensitive to frost.

Heterodehniae

National tree number: 455.1
Common names: large-leaved lavendertree (English); grootblaarlaventeldoom (Afrikaans); ubanda (ChiKalanga); nyakanebve (ChiManyika); chisisunduza, chisunduza, surunza (ChiNdau); nkiza-yentaba, umbanda, umbande (isiNdebele); chirowahande, mubanda, mutandavarombo (ChiShona)

General appearance

- A small tree, 5–7 m high, well-foliaged.
- Stem sometimes crooked and twisted.
- Bark pale grey, often white, thinly flaking. The wood is brownish purple and hard.
- Leaves narrowly elliptic, ovate to obovate, 30–140 × 10–40 mm, glossy light green above, dull below; margins smooth.
- Flowers are borne in terminal heads, creamy white to yellowish, fragrant.
- Flowers in summer, from December to March.
- Fruit an ellipsoid capsule, 3–4 × 2.0–2.5 mm, gland-dotted.

Distribution and habitat

Occurs on stony koppies and hills on termite mounds, in bush clumps and at the margins of evergreen forest.

Meaning of specific epithet

dehniae—named after Mrs Gretel (Gertrude) Dehn (1884–?), a collector of plants in the Marondera and Rusape areas in Zimbabwe between 1941 and 1943.

Ecology and uses

- Leaves are used to scent tobacco.
- Powdered leaves are used to eradicate intestinal worms in livestock.
- A decoction of the roots is a remedy for nose bleeding.
- The wood is used as fencing posts and for charcoal.

As a garden tree

Seeds germinate readily, but plants are slow growers and sensitive to frost.

Heteropyxis species

Family: Heteropyxidaceae

General information

- A small genus of trees confined to Africa.
- Three species occur in southern Africa and one in Mauritius.
- Leaves are alternate, gland-dotted, and aromatic when crushed.
- Flowers are small, in dense heads at the ends of branches.
- Fruit a small capsule.

Meaning of the genus name

Heter- means different; *-pyxis* means container with a lid, alluding to the capsule.



Heteropyxis canescens

Heteropyxis canescens

National tree number: 454.
Common names: forest lavendertree, false-bushwillow (English); boslaventeldoom, bastetrboswilg (Afrikaans); inkunzana (siSwati)

General appearance

- Medium to tall tree, 5–15 m high, with the main stem branching high up.
- Young branches covered in grey hairs.
- Bark greyish brown, flaking small circular patches to reveal pinkish orange underbark giving trunk a pock-marked appearance.
- Leaves alternate, elliptic to narrowly elliptic, margins smooth, rolled under, glossy green above, much paler and hairy below and aromatic when crushed.
- Flowers are borne in dense, branched heads of ± 20 mm long, at the ends of branches, white or cream.
- Flowers in summer, from December to January.
- Fruit roundish, dry capsule, ± 3 × 3 mm, pale brown.

Heteropyxis dehniae

Distribution and habitat

Forest lavendertree is endemic to Mpumalanga Province and northern Swaziland.

Meaning of specific epithet

canescens means ashen grey, alluding to the colour of to the hairs covering the branches and undersides of leaves.

Ecology and uses

The small yellowish green flowers attract butterflies and other insects.

As a garden tree

Grows best in well-drained moist soil; can be grown from seeds.

Heteropyxis natalensis