TREES OF THE YEAR 2015

Combretum kraussii Hochst.

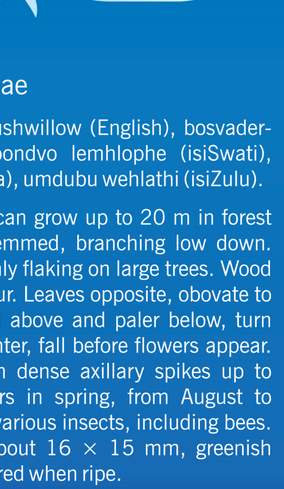












Family: Combretaceae

Common names: forest bushwillow (English), bosvaderlandswilg (Afrikaans), imbondvo lemhlophe (isiSwati), muvuvhu-thavha (Tshivenda), umdubu wehlathi (isiZulu).

Evergreen, to 10 m high, can grow up to 20 m in forest canopy. Single or multistemmed, branching low down. Bark pale grey, dark, roughly flaking on large trees. Wood is tough, yellowish in colour. Leaves opposite, obovate to elliptic, dark glossy green above and paler below, turn bright red to purple in winter, fall before flowers appear. Flowers creamy white, in dense axillary spikes up to 30–85 mm long. Flowers in spring, from August to November. Pollinated by various insects, including bees. Fruit 4-winged, small, about 16 × 15 mm, greenish brown tinged pink to dark red when ripe.

Heteromorpha arborescens (Spreng.) Cham. & Schltdl.

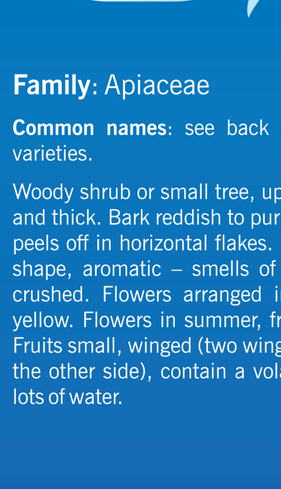












Family: Apiaceae

Common names: see back of poster under individual varieties.

Woody shrub or small tree, up to 15 m high. Roots fleshy and thick. Bark reddish to purplish brown, smooth, shiny, peels off in horizontal flakes. Leaves variable in size and shape, aromatic – smells of parsley or parsnips when crushed. Flowers arranged in umbels, inconspicuous, yellow. Flowers in summer, from December to January. Fruits small, winged (two wings on one side and three on the other side), contain a volatile oil. Seedlings require lots of water.

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

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TREES OF THE YEAR 2015





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Combretum kraussii Hochst.

National tree number: 540
Family: Combretaceae
Common names: forest bushwillow (English), bosvaderlandswilg (Afrikaans), imbondvo lemhlophe (siSwati), muvuvhuthavha (Tshivenda), umdubu wehlathi (isiZulu).



General appearance
- Evergreen, to 10 m high, can grow up to 20 m in forest canopy.
- Decorative tree with reddish autumn and sometime whitish spring colours.
- Single or multistemmed, branching low down.
- Bark pale grey, dark, roughly flaking on large trees.
- Wood tough, yellowish in colour.
- Leaves opposite, obovate to elliptic, dark glossy green above and paler below, turn bright red to purple in winter, fall before flowers appear.
- Flowers creamy white, in dense axillary spikes 30–85 mm long.
- Flowers in spring, from August to November. Pollinated by various insects, including bees.
- Fruit 4-winged, small, about 16 × 15 mm, greenish brown tinged pink to dark red when ripe.

Distribution and habitat
Occurs in the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga, Limpopo and Swaziland, extending marginally to southern Mozambique. Found in Afromontane forest habitat, often on rocky outcrops near forest margins and river ravines.

Meaning of name
Combretum – a climbing plant.
kraussii – in honour of Dr C.C.F. Krauss [1812–1890], a German scientist who collected over 2 300 plant species in South Africa from 1837–1840.

Ecology and uses
Pollinated by various insects, including bees. Seeds dispersed by wind and animals that eat the fruit. Wood is tough, yellowish in colour. Young stems used to make baskets. Some parts of the tree used to produce antidiuretics, lotions for eye infections and wound dressings. Powdered roots used as a tonic, appetite stimulant and given as enema to clean the digestive system. Sawdust can cause severe blisters and skin irritation.

As a garden tree
Easily propagated from seeds, seedlings grow quickly. Fruit can be harvested, but check for the presence of parasites in small circular holes in the body. Store fruit in a dry place. Remove seed coats and soak seeds for an hour before sowing. Place seeds 3–5 mm below soil surface in a well-drained medium; seedlings should appear 9–17 days after sowing. Protect seedlings during the first year, as they are sensitive to heat and cold. Once mature, *Combretum kraussii* is a fast-growing tree, frost tolerant and reasonably drought resistant.









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tree identification tags

Heteromorpha arborescens (Spreng.) Cham. & Schltdl.

National tree number: 568
Family: Apiaceae



General appearance
- Woody shrub or small tree, up to 15 m high.
- Roots fleshy and thick.
- Bark reddish to purplish brown, smooth, shiny, peels off in horizontal flakes.
- Leaves variable in size and shape, aromatic – smells of parsley or parsnips when crushed.
- Flowers arranged in umbels, inconspicuous, yellow.
- Flowers in summer, from December to January.
- Fruits small, winged (two wings on one side and three on the other side), contain a volatile oil.
- Several varieties have been described for this species.

Distribution and habitat
Widely distributed in South Africa, from the southern Cape north through Eastern Cape and eastern Free State, Lesotho, KwaZulu-Natal, Swaziland, Gauteng, Mpumalanga, North-West Province and Limpopo Province. It also occurs further north along the eastern parts of Africa. Found in wooded grassland, bushveld and along forest margins.

Meaning of name
Heteromorpha – means 'of two different forms' in reference to its small winged fruit that has two wings on one side and three wings on the other side.
arborescens – tree-like habit.

Ecology and uses
It is used to treat tuberculosis, abdominal pains, colic, nervous and mental disorders, headaches, fever, shortness of breath, asthma, coughs, dysentery, infertility, weakness, intestinal worms, and also used for purification of blood, stomach or kidneys. Trees are planted to calm emotions during court hearings in every *lekhotla* (official gathering areas where communal cases are heard) in Free State and Lesotho. Trees are also planted in the kraals of chiefs in Lesotho to ensure the loyalty of the people. Its timber is a poor fuel, but Xhosa people make musical instruments of the wood. In the Okavango, roots are used as an aphrodisiac.

As a garden tree
Easily propagated from seeds in early summer. Sow seeds in a medium of equal amounts of compost mixed with river sand in a plug tray. Keep the tray in a shady area and water regularly. The seeds should germinate after about two weeks and seedlings can be thinned out. Transplant seedlings into a well-mixed medium of red clay soil (eight spades), coarse river sand (four spades) and one bag of compost after three months. Trees can also be propagated by means of cuttings. Once established, *Heteromorpha arborescens* trees grow fast and are frost and drought resistant, making them ideal for an inland garden.









Varieties of *Heteromorpha arborescens*

var. *arborescens* (568.1)

Common names: parsleybush (English), pietersieliebos (Afrikaans).

General appearance
- Tree, up to 8 m high.
- Mature leaves unifoliolate; typically longer than 30 mm; apex acuminate to rounded; petioles short, up to 27 mm.
- Mature fruits up to 8 mm long, with a narrowly obovate to narrowly pear-shaped outline from above.

Distribution and habitat
Widely distributed throughout the species' range and preferred habitat in South Africa.

var. *abyssinica* (Hochst. ex A.Rich.) H.Wolff (568.2)

Common names: common parsleytree (English), gewone pietersieliebos (Afrikaans), mmakatlala (Sepedi), monkhoane (Sesotho), umbangandlala (siSwati), serethe (Setswana), muṭhaṭhavhanna (Tshivenda), umbangandlala (isiZulu).

Derivation of name
abyssinica – described from Abyssinia, a former name for Ethiopia.

General appearance
- Shrub or small- to medium-sized deciduous tree.
- Mature leaves trifoliolate, pinnate or pedate (lobed).
- Fruits longer than 5 mm.

Distribution and habitat
Occurs in Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Free State, Lesotho, Swaziland and northern South Africa, through eastern tropical Africa to Ethiopia and Yemen. Found in wooded grassland, bushveld and along forest margins.

var. *collina* (Eckl. & Zeyh.) Sond. (568.3)

Common names: small parsleytree (English), kleinpietersieliebos (Afrikaans).

Derivation of name
collina – in reference to hills.

General appearances
- Shrub, up to 3 m high.
- Mature leaves unifoliolate; typically shorter than 30 mm; obovate, apex rounded, often truncated to emarginated.
- Fruits typically shorter than 5 mm (up to 6 mm), with elliptic outline from above.

Distribution and habitat
Widely distributed throughout the species' range and preferred habitat in South Africa.

var. *frutescens* P.J.D.Winter (568.4)

Common names: bushveld parsleytree, blue parsleytree (English); bosveldpietersieliebos (Afrikaans).

Derivation of name
frutescens – means 'shrubby'.

General appearances
- Small tree, up to 3 m high.
- Main stem single, but often multistemmed, stems greyish green, smooth and peeling when mature.
- Leaves pinnately compound, blue-green, softly textured.
- Flowers small, creamy to greenish yellow.
- Flowering time: January to April.

Distribution and habitat
Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, northern South Africa to Zimbabwe and southern Malawi.