

Acrocarpus fraxinifolius

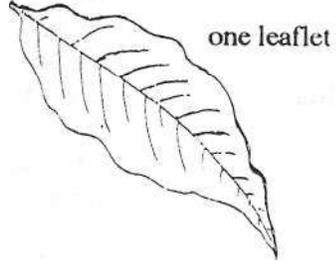
Caesalpinioideae

India, South-East Asia

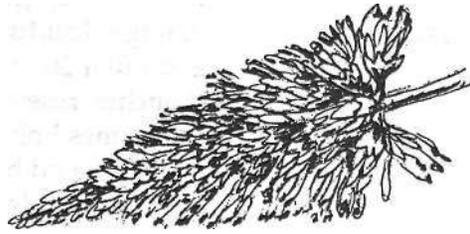
- Common names:** **Eng:** Indian ash, pink cedar, shingle tree.
- Ecology:** Introduced to Tanzania as a plantation tree originally in trials in Lushoto and Tabora, later throughout Tanzania. It is most suitable for moderate altitudes with red soil (1,000-1,500 m) and a moist climate, but can also stand some drought.
- Uses:** Firewood, timber (furniture, tea boxes), roof shingle, beehives, bee forage, shade, ornamental, mulch, windbreak.
- Description:** A large tree reaching 60 m. The bole is often buttressed but then a long straight trunk. It is an evergreen tree except in areas with a marked dry season. **BARK:** pale grey and smooth, trunk and branches bear leaf scars. **LEAVES:** **large compound in distinctive fan shapes to 1 m, young red leaves** look like blossoms, leaflets oval, wavy and pointed to 14 cm. **FLOWERS:** appear on the tree when it is leafless, up to **20 dense heads hang down from branch ends, each 12 cm long, dripping nectar from the red-green flowers, short lived.** **FRUIT:** **big bunches of dark brown pods** persist on the tree. They split easily to release seed.
- Propagation:** Seedlings, direct sowing.
- Seed info.:** No. of seeds per kg: 24,000-29,000. Germination is sporadic, 10-30 days after good pre-treatment.
- treatment:** nick or soak seed in hot water and allow to cool for hours.
- storage:** seed loses viability rapidly.
- Management:** Very fast growing; pollarding, coppicing. Rotation for fuel 8-10 years, timber 30-40 years.
- Remarks:** The tree should not be planted near houses as dry branches drop off. Competes with crops if grown in fields.

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one leaflet



flower head

