

USES

The wood of the tree is very light, and may be used for floats, dart and drawing boards, crates, insulating material, building, furniture, musical instruments, toys, curios and fishing gear.

The use of fruit is now concentrated on the production of Kashepembe, a very potent local alcoholic drink.

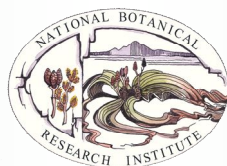
Kernels may yield about 63% of a yellow, edible oil that is used in soups.

Crushed kernels forms an oily paste that is used cosmetically in the north-west.

The shoots of young Manketti trees form an important source of water and nutrition for migrating wildlife.

CONSERVATION STATUS

The Manketti is protected under the Forestry Act 2001 and Forestry Regulations, Government Gazette No 5801 of 2015.



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PHOTOS COURTESY:

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AURUM Africa

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REFERENCES

Mannheimer, C.A. & Curtis, B.A. (eds) 2018. *Le Roux and Müller's Field Guide to the Trees and Shrubs of Namibia*. 2nd ed. Windhoek: Namibia Publishing House.

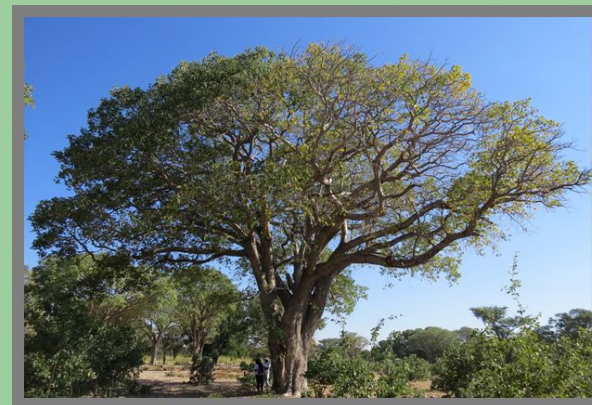
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Schinziophyton rautanenii

Euphorbiaceae



**“Forests and sustainable production
and consumption”**

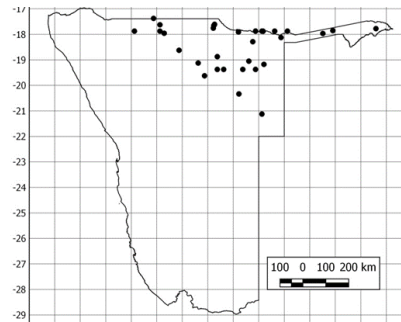
National Arbor Day 14 October 2022

FAMILY NAME: Euphorbiaceae

SPECIES NAME:

Schinziophyton rautanenii
(Schinz) Radcl.-Sm.

Common names: Manketti, Manghetti, Mongongo nut, Omungeti, and False balsa



MORPHOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS

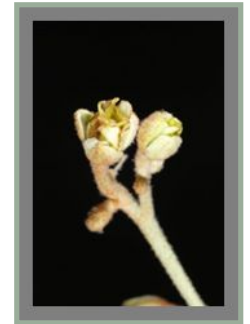
Bark: Mature trees have a smooth green or golden bark which has a tendency to peel in thin strips. Young twigs are covered with short, soft, white or red hairs that disappear with age. The wood is yellowish, light and soft, having a wavy grain and coarse texture.



Leaves: The leaves are digitally compound and arranged alternately on branches. They are comprised of three to seven leaflets, borne on hairy peduncles of up to 15cm. The leaves of male trees are smaller than those of female trees. The individual leaflets are broadly lanceolate to ovate, 5-13 cm long and about 2.5 to 9 cm broad with a blunt or rounded apex. The base is rounded or flat, but unequal. The lower side is lighter than the upper surface, but both sides are covered with stellate hairs. Midrib and veins are covered with rust-coloured hair. Leaves begin to sprout in September-October, before the first rain of the season. They are shed around May.



Flowers: Flowers are whitish or yellow and have a diameter of about 10 mm. The sepals are densely covered with stellate hairs, the latter ranging in colour from golden to rust-brown, and are stellate. The petals are fused to form a wide tube. The flowers are produced in early summer, before the first rains. Trees start flowering when about 20 years old.



Fruit: *S. rautanenii* usually requires between 15-25 years reaching maturity, before it will bear fruit. The fruit are ellipsoidal drupes (Keegan 1982) approximately 35 mm long and 25 mm in diameter. It ripens after falling to the ground in April or May. With ripening the colour turns from the original yellow to a reddish brown. Fruit production is very closely linked to the amount of rain of the previous season, with crop yields higher in years following heavy rains. The fruit is a round berry, ranging between 60-100 mm in diameter; dark green in with white to pale green specks, turning yellow when ripe with a hard, woody shell. The fruit is edible and weighs about 500 g and has a long storage life, even when ripe.



Seeds: Flattened, white