**t:** Young individuals are susceptible he fire resistance strategy of P. uick regrowth of aboveground gement practices recommended for de lopping, pollarding, trimming

s are edible and chewed to relieve nd seeds are also edible. s are nutritious and relished by pes. This is a preferred browse rican elephant (Loxodonta ts are also taken in considerable ver the feeding habits of the African tructive and do affect local plant

elwood in considerable amounts, eing its shrubby habit and multi-

bark is used to make rope. wood is straight grained and light d is pinkish to dark brown and pulk. Household utensils and farm nade from this wood.

**uff:** Three dyes can be obtained e bark produces a red-brown dye, e a black and blue dye. The roasted an also be used in dye production. annin content of 18%, though roots have a considerably high **Medicine** :P. thonningii is used medicinally in many African countries to treat wounds, ulcers, gastric/heart pain, gingivitis and as an antipyretic. In Tanzania and Zimbabwe, a cough remedy is prepared from the root bark.

## SERVICES

**Erosion control**: This deep rooting species can be employed in soil protection initiatives. Shade or shelter: Provides good shade in homesteads when in full foliage. **Reclamation:** Fixes nitrogen.

**Soil improver:** Produces considerable amounts of litter. Use of the leaf litter as mulch enhances soil fertility however P. thonningii leaves decompose slowly. Ornamental: Its showy white flowers can be aesthetically

enhancing.

**Boundary or barrier or support**: P. thonningii live stakes are used in supporting vines and other weaker plants in farms. Poles or posts are obtained from the plant.

**Intercropping:** A good tree that can be grown with Annona, Grewia and Combretum spp. Competes very little with maize if left in fields and pollarded to reduce shade. Other services: The pods are used as a soap substitute. The ashes can also be used in soap making.



# TREE OF THE YEA

Botanical Name: *Piliostigma thonnin* English Name: monkey bread, came Shona : Mutukutu, Musekesa Ndebele: ihabahaba





FORESTRY COM

Ministry of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality Industries

Forestry Commission : No. 1 Orange Groo Highlands , Harare , Tel : +263 24249843 782719996-9, Fax: +263 242497066 Website : www.forestry.c ingii is a medium sized rounded 5 m in height ,but reaching 10m unns ; occurring in woodland and d at medium to low altitudes . The ed by the local people. It flowers b February. An interesting feature of it the male and female flowers occur in most cases. If on the same tree, ir first and then female flowers later ition is not possible.

#### Botanical name :

Piliostigma means cap-shaped, rena. The specific

vas given after the Danish botanist

known as Bauhinia thonningii. It is Bauhinia by its unisexual flowers ods.





**Leaves:** alternate, simple, large, leathery, 2 lobed, up to 12cm long and almost as broad. Heavily veined and somewhat rusty-hairy below





Flowers

**Flowers:** Floral parts with 5 white to pink petals, pendulous, unisexual with male and female usually on separate trees; Fertile stamens 10 in male flowers, reduced to staminodes in female flowers. Female flowers with stigma sessile on the ovary. Flowering occurs from





Fruits and Seed of P Thonningii

Fruits and Seed: P. thonningii fruits 22x7 cm woody, thick with rusty-brow wear off as the pods mature. The pod reaching maturity but fall to the groun decay or are broken up from June-Se Seeds are variously shaped (fig )and when the pods fall and decay. (Jun-Se

### Habitat and Distribution:

Common in open woodland and wood commoner at medium to low altitudes soil type, but heavy clayey soils or me are preferred. *Piliostigma thonningii* is ondary and gallery forest. It is often le fields and it rapidly colonises abandor

#### Propagation

Natural regeneration, direct sowing, a seedlings or root suckers can be used. The number of seeds per kilogram is 7 Seed collection should be done soon turn brown, to prevent insect attack. A drying is also important, in order to precay. The seeds are difficult to extract. drying the fruits in the sun, cutting the and separating the seed from the pulp stored for several years in cool, dry, in tions. Seeds usually germinate 5-10 d ing. Seed pre-treatments such as was water for up to 24 hours, hot water tre scar- ification usually improve germinate

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