

Delonix floribunda (Baill.) Capuron

Manarifotsy, manarifoty - *Delonix adansonoides* (R. Vig.) Capuron

Large forest tree that is bottle-shaped and often found along main tracks.



Description

Stature: stem slightly constricted at base. Crown often umbrella-shaped.

Size: large tree to 15 m.

Bark: smooth red-brown bark peeling off in thin large papery sheets. Slash exudes a brown, transparent resin.

Leaves: the alternate leaves are bipinnately paripinnate.

Flower: large, bright yellow, nectariferous flowers on axillary racemes.

Fruit: large woody pod (16-25 x 2.5-3.5 cm) containing 14-23 seeds.

Seed: ellipsoidal, 10-12 x 7-9 x 7-9 mm.

Fabaceae

Striking features

- slightly constricted at base.
- smooth red-brown bark peeling off in thin large sheets.
- bright yellow flowers that litter the forest floor around the base of trees.
- brown, transparent resin.



Ecology

Status and distribution: common in the coastal zone of the West and Southwest. Heavily exploited for charcoal production in SW where it may become threatened.

Habitat requirements: light-demanding species that is often found along main tracks. Generally found on limestone and sand.

Phenology: deciduous. Flowering: September-December, usually prior to leafing.

Kirindy: Flowered early November in 2008. An unusual aggregation of large trees can be found in CS7 at N19.

Reproduction: flowers visited by sunbirds.



Foliage of a young individual



flowers on forest floor

Uses

Light and soft wood. Wood properties of limited value. Trunks are hollowed out to make canoes and resin is used as glue.

Can be used as a 'living fence' and is propagated by cuttings. Often planted as an ornamental.

Sources and further information

General: Du Puy *et al.* (1995)

Botanical description: Abraham (1991) p 59.

Forestry:

Kirindy: Anon. (1993) no. 35.

Herbarium specimen: