

Plants used by the Tsonga people of Gazankulu

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ABSTRACT

A study was undertaken in part of the Tsonga homeland, Gazankulu, to identify plants used by these people. A list of Tsonga plant names was extracted from a Tsonga-English dictionary and this was used as a basis for the study. The uses of almost 200 plants were recorded, including medicine, food, building materials, firewood, household utensils, implements, implement handles and toys. This information is presented in the form of an annotated list of the plants. This is followed by a discussion of some of the more important uses. Some of the aspects of Tsonga taxonomy are briefly discussed and illustrated with examples.

RÉSUMÉ

PLANTES UTILISÉES PAR LE PEUPLE TSONGA DE GAZANKULU

Une étude a été entreprise dans une partie du pays Tsonga, Gazankulu, afin d'identifier les plantes utilisées par ces personnes. Une liste de noms Tsonga de plantes a été extraite d'un dictionnaire Tsonga-Anglais et ceci fut utilisé comme base pour l'étude. Les utilisations de presque 200 plantes furent enregistrées, incluant les médicaments, l'alimentation, les matériaux de construction, le bois de chauffage, les ustensils ménagers, l'outillage, les manches d'outils et les jouets. Cette information est présentée sous forme d'une liste annotée de plantes. Ceci est suivi d'une discussion de certaines des plus importantes utilisations. Certains aspects de la taxonomie Tsonga sont brièvement discutés et illustrés avec des exemples.

INTRODUCTION

Much of the traditional culture and knowledge of the tribal people in southern Africa is in danger of being lost unless it is recorded. Tribal plant uses and botanical knowledge is of more than academic or historical importance and may be linked directly to plant utilization and conservation. The Botanical Research Institute has set itself the task of recording this information, commencing with a project in the northern Transvaal. The main aim of this project was to obtain a record of plants used by the Tsonga people of Gazankulu. A second aim was to test approaches to the gathering of ethnobotanical information prior to embarking on more extensive studies of the impact of tribal peoples on their environment.

The reasons for choosing Gazankulu as the study area were threefold. Firstly, it is a tribal area where traditional uses of plants have persisted. Secondly, it is a homeland area where a thorough knowledge of the plant-based tribal economy will be useful in future land-use and environmental planning. Thirdly, the author spoke the language, could communicate easily with the people and knew the area.

Study Area

The Gazankulu homeland consists of four separate units situated in the Transvaal Lowveld (see Fig. 1). The main block of the homeland, comprising the districts of Giyani and Malamulele, was chosen as the study area for this project. It is approximately 450 000 hectares in extent, lying west of the Kruger National Park, between the Levubu River to the north and the Letaba River to the south, with an arm in the middle stretching westwards to Elim Hospital.

Topography

The study area includes plateau areas (about 1 000 m altitude) and steep slopes and valleys at the plateau edge; but most of the area consists of low-lying plains (approx. 300–650 m altitude) with scattered hills.

In this preliminary study no attempt was made to define these areas or the plant uses peculiar to them.

Climate

The area has a hot, wet summer and a cool, dry winter. Spring is generally hot and dry and autumn warm and moist. The mean annual rainfall varies from 500 mm in the south-east to 1 000 mm in the



FIG. 1.—The location of the Gazankulu homeland.

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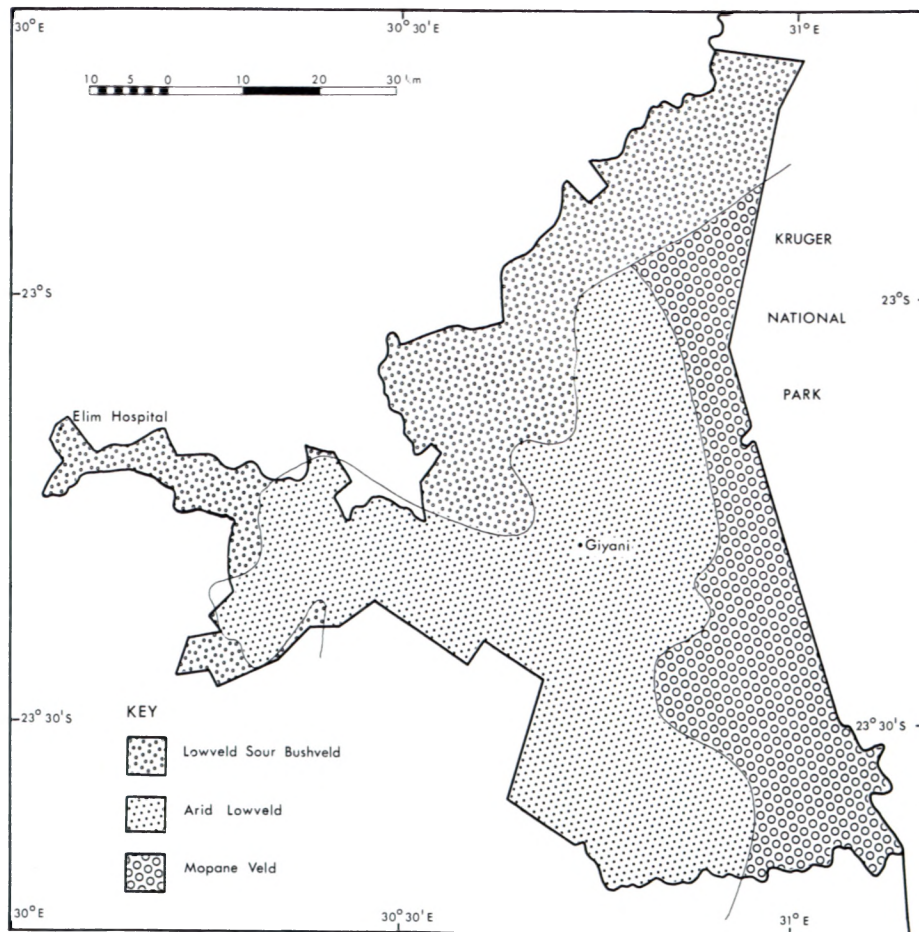


FIG. 2.—Acocks's veld types occurring in the study area. Redrawn from Acocks (1975).

west. Eighty to ninety percent of the rain falls in summer. Temperatures range from a mean winter minimum of 8°C to a mean summer maximum of 30°C. (Department of Co-operation and Development, pers. comm.).

Vegetation

The vegetation of the area includes three veld-types: Lowveld Sour Bushveld, Arid Lowveld and Mopane Veld (Acocks, 1975) (See Fig. 2).

The People

The life of the Tsonga people has been covered in great detail by Junod (1962). The Tsongas are basically agriculturalists, cultivating crops and keeping cattle and goats. They are dependent on the indigenous vegetation for many things, ranging from structural timber to supplementary food and medicine.

Historically, the Tsongas were an east coast people who occupied the southern half of Mozambique, the adjacent eastern edge of the Transvaal and north-eastern Natal (Tongaland). Many Tsongas migrated to the eastern Transvaal lowveld and adjoining escarpment areas on a number of occasions during the nineteenth century; firstly, during 1835–1840 when their country was conquered by Nguni who left Natal; secondly, during the 'War of Succession' between 1856 and 1862; and thirdly, during the war between the Portuguese and the Tsongas in 1894 and 1895 (Junod, *l.c.*). Many also migrated to the mining towns of the Transvaal in the early twentieth century. Today a number of Tsonga settlements are found as far west as the Waterberg District and Rustenburg (Van Warmelo, 1974).

Demography

The growth of the Tsonga population in Gazankulu as a whole has been rapid, from an estimated 37 000 in 1904 to 75 570 in 1951 and 350 245 in 1976. A further rapid increase is expected with populations of about 600 000 and 1 000 000 being projected for the years 2000 and 2020 respectively (Department of Co-operation and Development, pers. comm.).

In the study area the position is similar: following population influxes and with an estimated annual growth rate of about 5%, the area supported a population of just under 200 000 in 1976. (Department of Co-operation and Development, pers. comm.). This represents an average population density of 44 persons per square kilometre, with the western parts being the most heavily populated.

RESEARCH PROCEDURE

A list of approximately 550 Tsonga plant names was extracted from a dictionary (Cuenod, 1976) and was used as a starting point for the project. Field data sheets were devised for recording the use and the botanical name of each plant on the list as well as the locality and the informant.

As it turned out, the inhabitants of the study area often did not know some of the names incorporated in the dictionary. These were names used in other areas or referring to plants not occurring in the study area. Many of the names were synonymous, so that the final list of plants for which there were Tsonga names contained just under 400 plants. Information

on uses was obtained for almost half of these plants (190 species) and 170 specimens were collected.

The field work for the project was carried out during three trips to the study area between April and September 1977. An attempt was made to cover as much of the area as possible, visiting many of the not too inaccessible villages. The procedures used for gathering information were either:

1. to approach people whom the author knew to be helpful (who in turn often recommended others), or

2. to approach people at random along roads or in villages. These people were often engaged in particular activities that were worth recording, or revealed where to find knowledgeable people locally.

In all these contacts a knowledge of the language and way of life of the people was invaluable.

Both men and women were approached. Women were generally asked about plants used as food, thatch and mats and men about plants used in building and the making of utensils. Both men and women were asked about basketry and medicinal plants.

Most of the information on medicinal plants came from herbalists and information on plants from whose wood objects and utensils are carved from specialist woodcarvers, although some of these plant uses are common knowledge.

There were three approaches to questioning:

1. asking what a particular plant was used for; either giving its Tsonga name or pointing the plant out;

2. asking what plants in the locality were employed for various uses; and

3. on seeing a particular object or observing an activity (such as thatching), enquiring as to the plants used. Wherever possible, a specimen of the plant/plants was collected for identification. Colour slides and black and white photographs were taken, recording the utilization of plants.

The approach used depended largely on the situation. The first of the three approaches is only really effective if one points out a plant and asks about its uses. This approach is necessary if one wants to get both sides of the story (the plant side and the product side) in order to cross-check on information received. The second approach is useful for getting an idea of which plants have localized or widespread distribution and uses.

The most rewarding approach is the third since the informant is thoroughly familiar with the plant use. The object (finished or unfinished) is available and it is possible to record how the plants are prepared for use, how they are used, what other plants are used in conjunction with them, what part of the plant is used, how much wastage there is and what damage occurs to other plants in the process of collecting.

It soon emerged that many village and household activities are highly seasonal. Thus, continuous recording or more regular short visits to the area would be essential for any accurate quantitative assessment of the use of plant material to be made. The information on plants used by the Tsonga of Gazankulu presented here does not cover all seasons and should be regarded as a preliminary list only.

Verification of information on plant uses comes from two sources; literature and cross-checking in

the field, using information from a number of informants. The latter method works quite well in the case of plants with common, widespread uses. Specialist uses, for example medicinal uses, are not easy to check, since not all herbalists use the same plants.

Verification of information on plant uses comes from two sources; literature and cross-checking in medicinal plants. It was possible to verify the use of only 3 of the 35 Tsonga medicinal plants collected during this project. Fourteen other species were either used by other tribal groups for the same purpose as the Tsongas, or had related species with the same or similar medicinal use. In many other cases use of a plant was verified in the literature, but not for the Tsonga specifically. The most useful publications were Van Wyk (1972), Palmer & Pitman (1972), Watt & Breyer-Brandwijk (1962) and Shaw (1974). Junod (1962) provided verification of a few plant uses, but was most valuable for checking on traditional methods of thatching, building and basket-making.

THE PLANTS AND THEIR USES

The plants have been arranged in alphabetical order of their genus and species names. Tsonga names appear below the botanical names. Only original information on plant uses, gathered during the survey, has been included. Where a voucher specimen was collected, the collector's number is indicated in brackets after the plant name. Exotic species are indicated by *. Indexes of the uses and of the Tsonga names are appended to the paper.

Acacia ataxacantha DC. (Liengme 22)
muluwa

This is a fairly common tree in the Lowveld Sour Bushveld. It is often used as fuel, providing a very hot fire. Axe-handles are made from the wood and several types of baskets are made from thin strips of the wood. These strips are woven into mats and then shaped into baskets. The most commonly-seen baskets made in this way are: 1. a shallow saucer-shaped basket for winnowing, called a 'rihlelo', and 2. a fairly deep basket with a wide round opening. The latter normally has a winnowing basket as a lid.

Acacia caffra (Thunb.) Willd.
mbvinyaxihloka; nkaya/nkayi; nkhayani

A common tree in some parts, whose wood is hard and durable and is used for building, fence posts and firewood.

Acacia davyi N.E. Br. (Liengme 57)
xisidane

This small tree is another source of firewood.

Acacia gerrardii Benth. var. *gerrardii*
nsasani

This tree is not very common and seems to be more or less limited to the Lowveld Sour Bushveld areas. It is a source of firewood.

Acacia karroo Hayne (Liengme 9, 158)
munga

Its wood is an excellent firewood. The bark is used as cord and is sometimes made into ropes.

Acacia nigrescens Oliv.
nkaya/nkayi

The wood is hard and heavy and is used predominantly for building. It is also often used for making pestles. This is one of the characteristic trees of the Arid Lowveld and is plentiful.

Acacia sieberana DC. var. *woodii* (Burt Davy)
Keay & Brenan
nkowankowa

This common bushveld tree is used as firewood.

Acacia tortilis (Forssk.) Hayne subsp. *heteracantha*
(Burch.) Brenan
ngoka; nsasani

This is another source of firewood.

Adansonia digitata L.
mowu/muwu; ximowu/ximuwu

The dry pulp of the fruit is eaten. This tree is almost entirely confined to the Mopane Veld.

Adina microcephala (Del.) Hiern var. *galpinii* (Oliv.)
Hiern
muhlome/nhlume/muthuma

The wood of this tree is strong and is sometimes used in building. It is also left standing in villages as a shade tree. Young branches make natural stirring sticks, used for stirring mealie meal (*Zea mays* meal) while it is cooking.

Afzelia quanzensis Welw. (Liengme 204)
nxenhe

The wood is used for building. This species occurs on hills and ridges in the Arid Lowveld and the Mopane Veld.

Agave sp.*
xikwenga

The fibre extracted from the leaves of this exotic is used for making string, ropes, table mats and other items. The fibre is still extracted manually at home, but most people now buy the string. Prior to the introduction of *Agave* the fibre of *Sansevieria* species was probably used. In the vicinity of the large *Agave* plantations scattered around Gazankulu the inflorescence stalks are used as fencing material.

Albizia harveyi Fourn.
mola/molani; molela

This tree is often found in villages as a shade tree. It is also used as firewood.

Albizia versicolor Welw. ex Oliv. (Liengme 108)
mbhesu/mbheswi; muvambangoma; mvhangazi wo basa; mucece

The Tsonga name 'muvambangoma' can be translated as meaning 'stretched out like a drum skin' ('-vamba'—stretch out; 'ngoma'—drum). 'Muvhangazi wo basa' can be translated as 'white kiaat' ('muvhangazi' is the Tsonga name for kiaat and 'basa' means white). The roots and bark of the tree are apparently used to make a medicine for driving out demons. The wood is hard and quite beautiful and is used for carving mortars and other objects. The tree is also regarded as a useful shade tree in villages.

Allophyllus decipiens Radlk. (Liengme 51)
muzuzugwane xihlahla

This is a fairly common small tree used as firewood.

Aloe davyana Schoenl. var. *davyana*
mhangani

The leaves of this aloe are used in a game played by children. The nature of the game is uncertain.

Amaranthus cruentus L. (Liengme 100)
nhlaba ya fole

Snuff is made from the flowering tops of the plant.

Amaranthus thunbergii Moq. (Liengme 175)
thyeka/thyeke

This is a common ruderal herb near dwellings and in old fields. The leaves are cooked, usually as a constituent of relishes.

Annona senegalensis Pers. (Liengme 12)
murhompfa; muyembe; ndzompfa/ndzopfa/
ndzhopfa

The pulp of the fruit is eaten, but the plant is not common enough for it to be important in the diet. The empty fruit is used by children to make a 'pop-gun'. Openings at each end of the fruit are plugged with pieces of mealie (*Zea mays*) cob. If the plug at one end is hit hard the plug at the other end pops out.

Antidesma venosum E. Mey. ex Tul. (Liengme 24)
mpfalambati; mphatakhwari

The fruit is eaten and the plant is one of those whose young flexible branches are used as wattles in building. This is a species of the Lowveld Sour Bushveld.

Aptosimum lineare Marloth & Engl. (Liengme 92)
ximahlomahlwane

The juice of the leaves of this small herbaceous plant is used by herbalists as eye-drops.

Arachis hypogea L.*
manga

Peanuts are cultivated in some parts of Gazankulu.

Artabotrys brachypetalus Benth. (Liengme 219)
ntita/ntiti/ntinta; xivudzi

A strong fibre is obtained from this scrambling plant, which occurs in the Lowveld vegetation types. The fruit is eaten and the plant also has medicinal uses.

Asclepias burchelli Schltr. (Liengme 84)
kotoni

A decoction of the roots is used for the treatment of intestinal worms.

Asparagus virgatus Bak. (Liengme 141)
nkungulantila/nkwangulantilo

This plant is thought to have magical properties. When unwanted rain threatens, a plant is cut and set alight. The youngest child in the family waves this around to chase the rain away.

Athrixia phyllicoides DC. (Liengme 21)
kofi ya nhova

The leaves of this plant are used to make a hot drink, like tea.

Balanites maughamii Sprague (*Liengme* 107)
nulu

This small tree occurs in the vicinity of hills on the lowveld plains. The roots are pounded and made into a medicine for apparently driving out demons. A musical bow called 'xipendane' is made from this wood.

Bambusa sp.*
musengele

This exotic species is found growing in some places. Stems are split and used for fences and palisades.

Bauhinia galpinii N.E. Br.
ntshwiriri/ntshiriri

The seeds of this rambling shrub are used as beads for necklaces. This is a distinctive species of the Lowveld Sour Bushveld.

Bequaertiodendron magalismontanum (Sond.) Heine & J. H. Hemsl. (*Liengme* 208)
nombela

The fruit of this tree is very pleasant-tasting. The tree occurs in the Lowveld Sour Bushveld.

Berchemia discolor (Klotzsch) Hemsl. (*Liengme* 118)
nyiri/nyiyi/muwe

Pestles, axe-handles and other objects are carved from the wood. The fruit is eaten, especially by children.

Bidens pilosa L.*
muxiji

This is a common ruderal around dwellings and in fields. The leaves are cooked in relishes or as 'spinach'.

Blumea aurita (L.f.) DC. (*Liengme* 221)
munywane

This plant is placed in hot water to make a medicine and applied to sore places on the body. It is considered to be the male form of 'munywane'; the female form being a plant identified as *Epaltes gariepina*.

Bolusanthus speciosus (H. Bol.) Harms
mpfimbahongonyi; nkamba/nkhamba; nkohlwane

The wood of this tree is recognized as being good for making furniture. It is often used for implement handles and walking sticks. There is a substance in the roots which is reputed to have a sleep-inducing effect.

Brachylaena discolor DC. subsp. *transvaalensis* (Phill. & Schweick.) J. Paiva (*Liengme* 14)
mphata

Young stems and branches are strong and pliable and are used in making the rims of winnowing and other baskets made from strips of *Acacia ataxacantha* wood. The outer of the two wooden rings of the rim is made from this plant. Young stems and branches are also used for tying together roof frameworks. The tree is also a source of firewood. It occurs in the Lowveld Sour Bushveld.

Bridelia micrantha (Hochst.) Baill. (*Liengme* 18, 53)
mindzere/mundzere/ndzerhe

This is another species occurring in the Lowveld Sour Bushveld. The bark is used by herbalists and

witch-doctors to make a stomach medicine. The fruit (small berries) are eaten, particularly by children.

Bridelia mollis Hutch. (*Liengme* 214, 224)
kumbekumbe; swatima; swimbyambya

The small fruit is eaten.

Burkea africana Hook.
mpulu; nkenga

This tree is rare in the study area, being found only occasionally in the Lowveld Sour Bushveld. The wood is recognized as being good for furniture, having a good texture and colour and not splitting and twisting as it dries.

Cajanus cajan (L.) Millsp.* (*Liengme* 162)
ndodzi

The pigeon pea is cultivated in some of the moister western parts of the study area.

Calodendrum capense (L.f.) Thunb.
mbhovu

The dried fruits of this tree are used to make ankle-rattles which are worn by dancers at celebrations and feasts.

Capparis fascicularis DC. var. *fascicularis*
muhobadale

The roots of this creeper are used for medicinal purposes, of uncertain nature.

Capparis tomentosa Lam. (*Liengme* 232, 242)
khawa; mukorongwe

The roots are used to make a stomach medicine. The plant is fairly common in the Arid Lowveld.

Capsicum frutescens L.*
viriviri

Peppers are occasionally found in gardens.

Carissa edulis Vahl (*Liengme* 11, 223)
nchungulu/nchuguru/ntshuguru

This is a common shrub of the Lowveld Sour Bushveld, producing large quantities of fruit in mid-to late summer. The fruit is delicious and is eaten fresh by all.

Cassia abbreviata Oliv. subsp. *beareana* (Holmes) Brenan
lumanyama/numanyama

This tree is sometimes left standing in villages as a shade tree.

Cassia occidentalis L. (*Liengme* 44)
nembenembe

The seeds are cooked and eaten, but its importance as a foodstuff is not known. The plant is common in the moister areas and is often found along roads.

Cassine aethiopica Thunb. (*Liengme* 212)
nqayi

The wood of this tree is popular for making walking sticks.

Cassine transvaalensis (Burt Davy) Codd (*Liengme* 138)
ximapana; nkubatsebi

This tree has strong wood which is used for implement handles, yokes and spoons.

Catha edulis (Vahl) Forssk. ex Endl.
rithadzi

Young branches of this tree are used as withies for roof frameworks. The stimulant properties of the leaves are apparently not known.

Cephalanthus natalensis Oliv.
muthondwa/ntondo

This is a fairly abundant climber in the Lowveld Sour Bushveld. Its somewhat bitter fruit is eaten.

Clematis brachiata Thunb. (Liengme 63)
maamba; mikoka

The leaves of this common herbaceous climber are boiled in water and a person suffering from a headache inhales the vapours while seated under a blanket. The roots are crushed and placed in the nose to clear up colds.

Cocculus hirsutus (L.) Diels. (Liengme 81, 189, 237)
risotse/rixoto; xotse/xotso

This is a common climber in the Arid Lowveld and Mopane Veld whose stem is used for making baskets, especially conical baskets called 'xirundzu'. During the dry season the leaves remain green and are sometimes cooked and eaten as a vegetable.

Colocasia antiquorum Schott* (Liengme 34)
raboda; rupi

This exotic is sometimes found growing along streams in the moister western parts of Gazankulu. The leaves are cooked and eaten.

Colophospermum mopane (Kirk ex Benth.) Kirk ex J. Leonard (Liengme 91)
nxanatsi

The mopane tree is the dominant woody plant of the Mopane veld which covers a considerable part of the study area. The wood is hard and durable and is the major building material where it occurs, being used for roof supports, roof frameworks, fence-posts and stockades. The wood is widely used as firewood and is recognised as one of the best firewoods. It is also used for making pestles, yokes and sand-sledges. The bark is very fibrous and is used as cord. The tree is an indirect source of food to the people, being the food-plant of the mopane worm (the larva of the moth *Gonimbrasia belina*). This worm occurs in summer. It is collected, dried and stored for eating.

Combretum apiculatum Sond. subsp. *apiculatum* (Liengme 77, 126)
mpotsa/mpoza; mugarasaka

The wood of this common tree is hard, making it useful material for building and fence-posts. Implement-handles and spoons are also made from the wood.

Combretum erythrophyllum (Burch.) Sond. (Liengme 36)
mbvuvu/mvuvu; mgupa

The wood is used as fuel, but this is not common practice. The tree is more or less confined to stream banks.

Combretum hereroense Schinz. subsp. *hereroense* var. *hereroense* (Liengme 76)
mpotsa/mpoza; xikhavi

The wood is cut for building and is also used for axe-handles and pick-handles. Various wooden items

are carved from it. The young branches are strong and flexible and are used as withies.

Combretum imberbe Wawra (Liengme 98)
mbimba; mondzo

The wood is very hard and durable and is frequently used in building, usually for the main supporting poles of a hut. Mortars are carved from the wood and sometimes pestles as well. This species occurs in the Arid Lowveld.

Combretum paniculatum Vert. subsp. *microphyllum* (Klotzsch.) Wickens (Liengme 199)
chochelamandleni yanstongo; mpfunta; mpfunte-mpfunte

The Tsonga word 'chochelamandleni' means 'tap out into the hand', referring to the use of the plant by children: they shake the nectar from the flowers into their hands and then lick it up. A diminutive is formed by the addition of 'ya ntsongo' to the name. The tree *Schotia brachypetala* is the actual 'chochelamandleni'. The plant is a straggly, scrambling shrub occurring along river banks, flowering profusely in spring.

Commiphora pyracanthoides Engl.
xifata/xifati

The wood is extremely useful and is used for bowls, plates, axe-handles and a musical instrument called 'mbila'.

Corchorus confusus Wild (Liengme 193)
guxe

The leaves of this ruderal, common in villages and along roads, are cooked in a relish or gravy and eaten with mealie meal (*Zea mays* meal).

Corchorus tridens L. (Liengme 93)
guxe

This species is used in the same manner as *Corchorus confusus*.

Cordia grandicalyx Oberm.
ntogwe; tshaman'hwati

The dried fruit is used to make ankle-rattles for dancing.

Cordia ovalis R. Br. ex DC. (Liengme 75, 85, 227)
mpon'wana; mtlele

The young branches are flexible and are used as withies as well as for securing thatch to roofs. The fruit is eaten, generally by children.

Crossopteryx febrifugia (Afzel. ex G. Don) Benth.
nkombekwa/nkombelwa

Bowls and other utensils are carved from the wood.

Croton megalobotrys Muell. Arg. (Liengme 95)
nxunguxungu/nxungwexungwe

A purgative medicine is made from the pounded bark added to a few other ingredients. The plant is recognized by most people as being poisonous and dangerous. It seems to occur in the riverine vegetation.

Cryptolepis capensis Schltr. (Liengme 96)
nyokani

The roots of this forb are used to make a worm remedy. The use of the plant is indicated by its name; 'nyoka' means 'snake or worm'.

Cucumis melo L.* (Liengme 121)
rhanga

The fruit of this small melon is cooked and eaten. It is not certain whether this plant is cultivated or not, but specimens were found growing wild. The fruit of the collected specimen was about 100 mm long, oval and yellow.

Cucurbita maxima Duch.*
gawana; rhanga; xilutana

Squashes are commonly cultivated in Gazankulu, probably more so than *Cucurbita pepo*.

Cucurbita pepo L.*

Pumpkins are also cultivated.

Cussonia spicata Thunb.
musenje; xipokota

Planks are sometimes cut from the wood.

Cymbopogon validus (Stapf) Stapf ex Burtt Davy (Liengme 29, 181)
mgejo; deke

This grass is common in the Lowveld Sour Bushveld. It is used as thatch, particularly as the first layer of the thatch (the 'ceiling'). The name 'deke' is most probably derived from the Afrikaans word 'dak'.

Cyperus latifolius Poir. (Liengme 5)
njekejeke (leaves); xigoya (culm)

Both the leaves and the culms are used to make mats. The plant is abundant along streams in the Lowveld Sour Bushveld.

Cyperus sexangularis Nees (Liengme 186, 246)
nhlahle; risama

This occurs along rivers and streams in the Arid Lowveld and Mopane Veld and is used there to make mats.

Cyphostemma humile (N.E. Br.) Desc. ex Wild & Drum. subsp. *humile* (Liengme 172)
ndlejane

The leaves of this succulent are crushed and the liquid used as ear-drops.

Dalbergia melanoxylon Guill. & Perr. (Liengme 120)
xilutsi; xipalatsi

The wood is much sought-after by wood-carvers, because of its beautiful black heartwood. The wood is used for ornaments, walking sticks, knobkieries and also for headrests. Reasonably large specimens of the species seem to be rare.

Dicerocaryum zanguebarium (Lour.) Merr. subsp. *zanguebarium* (Liengme 88)
dinda/dindza; hlwehlwe (seed)

The plant's juice is used as a shampoo. It is common in the Arid Lowveld and the Mopane Veld.

Diachrostachys cinerea (L.) Wight & Arn. subsp. *africana* Brenan & Brumitt (Liengme 25)
ncenga; ndhenga/ndzhenga

This small common tree/shrub is used as firewood.

Dioscorea cotinifolia Kunth (Liengme 28)
nsidwa; risidwa

The tough stems of this climber are used in basket-making. They are used for binding the rims and waists of baskets to the body of the basket.

Diospyros mespiliformis Hochst. ex A. DC.
mgula; ntoma

The fruit of this tree, common in the Lowveld Sour Bushveld and Arid Lowveld regions, ripens in late winter. Cultivated food can be quite scarce at this time of the year and the fruit is thus an important food resource. The wood is used to make mortars, door frames, hut poles and yokes and occasionally pestles.

Diospyros natalensis (Harv.) Brenan subsp. *natalensis*
xintomantomane

The Tsonga name can be taken to mean 'little Diospyros'. Sticks are cut from this shrub and used to build palisades (walls around or between a group of huts), as well as being used as withies in hut building. The fruit is eaten.

Dodonea viscosa Jacq. var. *viscosa* (Liengme 216)
mudodivisa

This is grown as a hedge in many villages.

Dombeya burgessiae Gerr. ex. Harv. (Liengme 3)
mukurhu

The bark of this small shrub is strong and is used as cord. The plant occurs as an understorey plant in the forest along the escarpment in the extreme west of the study area.

Dombeya rotundifolia (Hochst.) Planch. var. *rotundifolia* (Liengme 78)
mbikanyaka; nsihapukuma; xiluvathi

The wood is used for many purposes, from building to carving spoons for stirring food. The flowers are believed to have magico-medicinal properties. They are sprinkled over a hen's eggs to prevent the chickens from dying once they have hatched.

Dovyalis zeyheri (Sond.) Warb. (Liengme 50)
chipachipachane;

This is another source of firewood.

Ekebergia capensis Sparrm.
nyamarhi

This is one of the trees left standing in villages to provide shade.

Epaltes gariepina (DC.) Steetz (Liengme 220)
munywane

A medicine is made from this herbaceous plant for relieving pain. The medicine is made by placing the plant in hot water. The lotion is then applied to the affected part of the body. This species is considered to be the female form of the plant 'munywane'. *Blumea aurita* is the male form. Both are used for the same kind of medicine.

Erythrina lysistemon Hutch.
muvale; nsisimbana

The wood is not strong and is only used occasionally as fence-posts. Truncheons are planted to provide a living fence.

Eucalyptus spp.*
ndlulamithi

Gum poles can be bought from timber producers near the homeland and are often used instead of indigenous timber in the construction of roofs.

Euclea crispa (Thunb.) Guerke var. *crispa* (Liengme 194, 203)
xintomantomane

This species has the same Tsonga name as *Diospyros natalensis*, indicating that the Tsonga consider the two plants as the same or similar. The branches of this shrub are flexible and are used as withies in hut construction. It is common in the Mopane Veld.

Euclea divinorum Hiern (Liengme 111, 226)
nhlangula/nhlohlangu

The fruits are eaten, mostly by children.

Faurea saligna Harv.
muthango; n'wamidzumba

This is recognized as a good timber tree and is used for building and furniture. It occurs occasionally on the western edge of the study area, in the Lowveld Sour Bushveld. The wood is also used as firewood, but it is said that a fire made with this wood needs to be well-tended or it goes out. The nectar is sucked out of the flowers by children.

Faurea speciosa (Welw.) Welw. (Liengme 17)
muthango; n'wamidzumba

This species is generally found at higher altitudes than *Faurea saligna*. It is not distinguished from that species by the Tsonga, having the same names and uses.

Ficus burkei (Miq.) Miq. (Liengme 157)
xirhombe; xirhomberhombe; nhluhlawumbe

The bark is easily stripped off young branches and is used as cord.

Ficus capensis Thunb. (Liengme 151)
nkuwa

This tree is found along streams in the Lowveld Sour Bushveld regions. The 'fruit' is edible but is usually infested with insects. The wood is sometimes used as fuel.

Ficus capreaefolia Del. (Liengme 104)
phalavurha; xinkuwana

This species occurs along river banks in the Arid Lowveld and Mopane Veld. The young branches are very flexible and are used as withies. The 'fruit' is eaten.

Ficus soldanella Warb. (Liengme 109)
nkuwa ya tintsava

This species of *Ficus* is found on rocky hills in the lowveld, often actually growing on rocks. Its Tsonga name is indicative of its habitat, meaning 'the fig of the hills'. The 'fruit' is tasty and is eaten.

Ficus sonderi Miq. (Liengme 117, 222)
xirhomberhombe xa tintsava

The Tsonga name for this tree is also indicative of its habitat, meaning the 'xirhomberhombe' of the hills. The 'fruit' is sometimes eaten.

Ficus stuhlmannii Warb.
nhlulawumbe; xirhombe; xirhomberhombe

The 'fruit' of this fig is sometimes eaten, but it is apparently not as pleasant as some of the other species.

Ficus sycamorus L. (Liengme 139, 148, 217)
nkuwa

This large tree occurs mainly along river banks, but in the Lowveld Sour Bushveld it is also found away from the rivers. Here it is often one of the few trees remaining in the field and in villages. The 'fruit' is edible, but, as with many wild figs, is usually infested with insects.

Flacourtia indica (Burm. f.) Merr.
muqokolo/nqokolo; xivambula

The fruit is eaten.

Garcinia livingstonei T. Anders.
mbhimbi/mhimbi

This tree is not very common in the study area. The fruit is eaten and is also used to make an alcoholic beverage. Whether this practice is common or not is uncertain.

Gardenia spatulifolia Stapf & Hutch.
ntsalala; xitsalala

The heartwood of this tree/shrub is dark and spoons are carved from it. It is thought that a stick cut from this species and placed in the ground inside a witch-doctor's hut will protect him, presumably from evil forces.

Gnidia rubescens B. Peterson (Liengme 228)
xinyokanyokane

A worm medicine is prepared from the roots of this herb.

Gossypium herbaceum L. var. *africanum* (Watt)
J. B. Hutch. & Ghose (Liengme 80)
miseha; ricinda

The boll provides a fibre which is little used today. It was used previously in much the same way that cottonwool is used today.

Grewia species
nsihana

The name 'nsihana' appears to be a generic name for the *Grewia* species.

Grewia flavescens Juss. var. *flavescens* (Liengme 244)
nciwana; nsihana

The wood of this common shrub is used for making musical instruments and rims and basal rings for baskets. The fruit is eaten.

Grewia flavescens Juss. var. *olukundae* (Schinz)
Wild (Liengme 97, 131)
nsihana yo kulu

The Tsonga name means 'large *Grewia*'. The fruit is edible, being particularly favoured by children.

Grewia occidentalis L. (Liengme 142)
ntsepukane; ntswukelane

This is a species of the Lowveld Sour Bushveld. The leaves are cooked and eaten as a vegetable.

Heteropogon contortus (L.) Beauv. ex Roem. & Schult. (Liengme 83, 177)
xilungwa

This grass is used for thatching roofs by the method of tying the grass into mats first and then attaching these to the roof.

Heteropyxis natalensis Harv. (Liengme 20)
nthathasani

Spoons are carved from the wood of this small tree. It occurs in the Lowveld Sour Bushveld.

Hexalobus monopetalus (A. Rich.) Engl. & Diels (Liengme 72)
mbomu; nxakama

The fruit of this small tree is eaten.

Hibiscus cannabinus L.
ntsembyana/ntswembyane

The bark of this plant is very fibrous and it is used for making twine and rope. It is a weed, often seen along roads and in old fields.

Hyparrhenia dichroa (Steud.) Stapf (Liengme 31, 160, 164, 184, 192)
ntsenga; tlongwe

This is one of the several species of this genus that are used as thatch. *Hyparrhenia* species are common in the Lowveld Sour Bushveld, but not in the other two veld types. Most of the species have the same Tsonga names.

Hyparrhenia dregeana (Nees) Stapf ex Stent (Liengme 30)
ntsenga

A thatch grass.

Hyparrhenia hirta (L.) Stapf (Liengme 165, 183, 191)
ntsenga; tlongwe; deke

Another thatch grass. The last of the Tsonga names is probably derived from the word 'dak'.

Hyparrhenia rudis Stapf (Liengme 6)
ntsenga

Also a thatch grass.

Hyparrhenia tamba (Hochst. ex. Steud.) Anders. ex Stapf (Liengme 130)
tlongwe

A fifth *Hyparrhenia* species which is used as thatch.

Hyperthelia dissoluta (Nees) Clayton (Liengme 7, 167, 179, 180, 185, 188)
tlongwe

This is a common grass of the Lowveld Sour Bushveld, which is used as thatch.

Hyphaene natalensis Kunze
vucema

This palm is rare in the study area and is protected. The leaves were used to make certain types of bags and baskets as well as beer-strainers. These objects are not very common any more because of the scarcity of material.

Ipomoea batatas (L.) Lam.*
gapi (tuber); ritiyi

The sweet potato is cultivated in many parts of the study area.

Jatropha curcas L.* (Liengme 154)
nhlamfura ya valungu

This exotic is found in many villages. The people know that the seed contains oil but they don't seem

to use it. It is very poisonous and there have been a number of cases of poisoning of children by the fruit.

Kigelia africana (Lam.) Benth. (Liengme 94)
mpfungu/mpfungurhu; muveve

This large tree occurs predominantly near rivers. The large fruit is burnt when an unwanted storm threatens. Dense smoke is produced and this is believed to chase the clouds away. The pulp of the fruit is known to have been ground into flour and used as food during famines.

Lagenaria siceraria (Molina) Standl.
rindanga

The calabash is widely cultivated in Gazankulu. Besides being used as a vegetable, it also provides bowls and scoops.

Landolphia kirkii Dyer (Liengme 207)
muvungwa; mungu

This scrambling plant of the rocky hills has edible fruit.

Lannea discolor (Sond.) Engl. (Liengme 70)
ximutswani; ximombyana; xinkanyana; mumbumumbu; ximpupyani

The Tsonga name 'xinkanyana' can be taken to mean 'the little marula': the marula is called 'nkanye'. The fruit is eaten and the bark is used as cord.

Lannea edulis (Sond.) Engl.
nchuchungwa

The small fruit is eaten.

Lannea stuhlmannii (Engl.) Engl. (Liengme 245)
ndivata/ndzivata; ximbukanyi; ximombonkanyi

The bark provides a purplish brown dye which is used for drying the materials used in basket-making in order to give the baskets coloured stripes or patterns. The bark is also used as cord. The wood of the roots is sometimes used in the rims of baskets. The fruit is eaten. The Tsonga name 'ximombonkanye' means 'it has the face of the marula': 'mombo' means 'face' and 'nkanye' is the marula tree. This corresponds to the English common name of the species—bastard marula.

Lantana rugosa Thunb. (Liengme 87)
tihove ta valungu

The fruit is eaten by children.

Leonotis sp. (Liengme 102)
mahlanganiso

The Tsonga name of this plant is derived from the verb 'hlanganisa' which means 'to unite or join'. If a person has a broken bone, the witch-doctor pricks the skin in the region of the break and applies a lotion made from the tops of the plant. This is thought to heal the bones quickly.

Lippia javanica (Burm. f.) Spreng. (Liengme 27)
musuzwane; ntungufana

Plants are cut and tied together to make rough brooms. The plant also has a number of medicinal uses. The leaves are boiled in water to make a cough medicine and a bleeding nose is cured by plugging it with leaves. The plant occurs commonly in the Lowveld Sour Bushveld, especially in areas where the bush has been cleared.

Lonchocarpus capassa Rolfe
mbhandzu/mbhandzwa

This tree is fairly common in the Arid Lowveld and Mopane Veld areas, particularly along rivers. A decoction of the bark is used as a cure for colds.

Maerua angolensis DC. (Liengme 174)
xiyimanamurhi

A purgative medicine is made from the bark.

Maerua parvifolia Pax (Liengme 229)
nongonongo

The roots are used for making medicine, the purpose of which is uncertain.

Manihot utilissima Pohl*
ntusumbulu

This is occasionally cultivated.

Maytenus heterophylla (Eckl. & Zeyh.) N. Robson
(Liengme 48)
xihlangwa/xilangwa

Spoons and stirrers, called 'rifeto', are sometimes made from the wood. It is also used as firewood.

Melia azedarach L.*
xifiringoma

This exotic provides roof poles and fence-posts. It is only common in the moister western parts of the study area, where it has become naturalized in disturbed areas.

Mimusops zeyheri Sond. (Liengme 64)
mibubulu; mpfluxane; nhlantswa

The fruit is eaten.

Oncoba spinosa Forssk.
mbhovu; nchowana; tongwaan

The dried fruits of this tree are used in making ankle-rattles worn at dances.

Opuntia ficus-indica (L.) Mill.*
mudoro

The fruit of this naturalized exotic is often eaten. The plant is widespread in the Lowveld Sour Bushveld.

Ozoroa engleri R. & A. Fernandes
xinungumafi

The wood burns well and it is specially selected when a hot fire is required.

Ozoroa reticulata (Bak. f.) R. & A. Fernandes subsp. *reticulata* var. *reticulata* (Liengme 169)
xinungu; mfute

Besides being used as firewood, this species also has a medicinal use: the roots and bark are used to make a purgative.

Pappea capensis Eckl. & Zeyh. (Liengme 171)
gulaswimbi; guvaswivi; xikwakwaxu

This tree sometimes produces large crops of its small fruit. The pulp of the fruit, which is quite sour, is eaten.

Parinari curatellifolia Planch. ex Benth. subsp. *mobola* (Oliv.) R. Grah.
mbulwa

The fruit tastes pleasant and is eaten in fairly large quantities. It generally ripens in late winter or early spring. Dried, the fruit keeps for several months.

Peltophorum africanum Sond.
ndzedwe; ndzhuva; nhlanhlanu

The wood is used for fence-posts and for carving bowls. It occurs in the Lowveld Sour Bushveld.

Pennisetum americanum (L.) Leeke subsp. *americanum**
mahoba

Millet is cultivated in most parts of Gazankulu. The grain is mostly used in the brewing of traditional beer.

Phaseolus sp.*
nyawa

Beans are cultivated in some areas.

Phoenix reclinata Jacq.
mbovu; ncindzu; nchindu-lisundu

This palm occurs scattered along streams in the Lowveld parts of the study area. An alcoholic beverage used to be made from the fruit, but it is uncertain if this is still done. Mats are made from the rachis of the leaf. The rachis is split in four and the pieces are tied or threaded together with twine.

Phragmites mauritianus Kunth (Liengme 163)
rihlanga

This reed is common along most rivers. It is used to build palisades, in roof construction and as an underlayer in thatching.

Phyllanthus reticulatus Poir.
swatima lowutsongo; nthethenya

The fruit is eaten.

Phyllanthus verrucosus Thunb. (Liengme 218)
nsangasa

The fruit is eaten.

Physalis peruviana L.* (Liengme 2)
malanguti (fruit (pl.))

This exotic has become naturalized in the moister areas of Gazankulu (Lowveld Sour Bushveld). Its edible fruit is popular with all.

Piliostigma thonningii (Schumach.) Milne-Redh. (Liengme 40)
nkokotso/nkolokotso; xidengana

This tree occurs occasionally in the Lowveld Sour Bushveld. The large pods are sometimes fed to cattle.

Pittosporum viridiflorum Sims
mphatakhamelo

Spoons are carved from the soft white wood.

Plectranthus esculentus N.E. Br.
nthada/ntheda

The tubers of this herbaceous plant are eaten.

Pluchea dioscorides (L.) DC.
bvimba

This is another plant whose name indicates its use. The leaves were used as a cork or stopper to close bottles, pots or jars. This practice is seldom heard of

today. The Tsonga name is derived from the verb 'bvimba', meaning 'seal with a lid'.

Pseudolachnostylis maprouneaefolia Pax (*Liengme* 140)
nxojowa

The wood is used for carving spoons.

Ptaeroxylon obliquum (Thunb.) Radlk.
ndazi; ndzari

Various utensils and other items are carved from the wood. The tree occurs occasionally, usually near rivers.

Pterocarpus angolensis DC. (*Liengme* 110)
mvhangazi; murotso; ntsonde

This tree, commonly known as kiaat, has beautiful, hard but workable wood from which furniture, bowls, plates, spoons and carved objects of art are made. It is a favoured wood for making items for sale as curios. The tree is protected in the homeland and the wood is not easily obtainable. The bark is used in veterinary medicine. It is believed to cure limping if it is placed on the injured part of the beast.

Pterocarpus rotundifolius (Sond.) Druce subsp. *rotundifolius* (*Liengme* 179)
mpyalalangala; muhadamba; muyataha; ndleve ya ndlopfu; nxelana/nxelela

Hoe handles are made from wood, which is strong but not very durable. The tree occurs in the Arid Lowveld.

Pterolobium stellatum (Forssk.) Gmel.
rikatsi/rikatsu

This is sometimes planted as a living fence, providing an impenetrable barrier.

Rhoicissus digitata (L.f.) Gilg & Brandt (*Liengme* 234)
mbhesa/mphesa; mbhezana

The roots of this climber are used in the preparation of a stomach medicine.

Ricinus communis L.*
nhlampfurha

Oil is extracted from the seeds and used for a number of purposes. It is rubbed on the skin and is also used as ear-drops. The plant is a weedy exotic, common in the Lowveld Sour Bushveld. The Tsonga name is derived from the word 'mafurha' which means 'fat, oil or grease'.

Saccharum officinale L.*
mova

Sugar-cane is cultivated in gardens in some parts of the study area.

Sansevieria hyacinthoides (L.) Druce (*Liengme* 187)
xikwenga

A fibre is obtained from the leaf, which was once used as a thread for sewing and for making string. *Agave* fibre has replaced this in most areas.

Sarcostemma viminalis (L.) R. Br. (*Liengme* 119)
neta

This is a fairly common plant in the Arid Lowveld and the Mopane Veld, generally growing over trees. The milky sap is added to food given to cows in the belief that it will make them produce more milk.

Scirpus inclinatus (Del.) Aschers. & Schweinf. (*Liengme* 8, 198)
mixaka; vungwane

This plant occurs along rivers and streams in the Lowveld Sour Bushveld and is used to make mats of inferior quality to those made from *Cyperus latifolius*.

Sclerocarya caffra Sond.
nkanye

This widely distributed, common tree has many uses. The wood is not very hard when fresh and is fairly easily workable, being made into spoons, mortars, pestles, bowls and plates, drums and cattle yokes. The wood hardens as it dries and is quite durable. It seems that only male trees are cut. Female trees are spared because of the edible fruit they bear. The fruit falls off the tree and ripens on the ground during February/March. It is collected and taken home, eaten or used to make a beer called 'bukanye'. The pips are removed from the fruit by boiling it in water. The skin comes off and is discarded and the flesh can be separated from the pip. The pips are stored for use later and the flesh is usually eaten or allowed to ferment to make beer. The pips are stored until they dry, when they are cracked and the kernels removed. These are very tasty when roasted and are eaten by themselves or added to relishes. The marula tree is probably the most important wild fruit tree of the Tsonga. The bark and roots are used to make a cleansing medicine for the stomach.

Securinega virosa (Rosb. ex Willd.) Rax & K. Hoffm.
nhlangawume/nxangawume; nsangasa

The fruit is eaten by children. The flexible young branches are used as withies in building.

Setaria sp. (*Liengme* 168)
xihovane; xichakala; pundze

This is one of the grasses used for thatching in the traditional way.

Solanum incanum L. (*Liengme* 176)
ndzhulwane; nthuma yo kulu

This ruderal is often found around dwellings. The fruit is crushed and placed on the umbilical wound of a new-born baby until it heals.

Solanum panduraeforme E. Mey. (*Liengme* 173)
ndulwane/ndzhulwane; nthuma; rirhulwane

This ruderal has the same use as *Solanum incanum*.

Spilanthes mauritiana (Pers.) DC. (*Liengme* 147)
xixwene; xixwenelamhofu

The leaves are rubbed on mouth-ulcers in order to ease the pain.

Spirostachys africana Sond.
ndzopfuri; xilangamahlo

Bowls, ornaments and stools are carved from the wood. The tree is not very common in the study area.

Sporobolus africanus (Poir.) Robyns & Tournay (*Liengme* 159)
muxikijane

This grass is sometimes used as thatch, but it is more often used to lash the thatch down onto the roof frame-work. It is also used to make items such as table-mats, sold as curios.

Strychnos madagascariensis Poir. (Liengme 113)
nkwakwa

This tree occurs occasionally in the area and is usually left standing in fields. The pulp of the fruit is edible. It can be eaten raw but is normally stamped into a flour and kneaded into cakes or made into a food called 'mpfuma'. The young branches are used as withies in building.

Strychnos spinosa Lam. (Liengme 15)
nhlala/nsala

The pulp of the fruit is eaten. Fresh pulp is sometimes added to milk to make it sour. The pulp is also added to mealies (*Zea mays*) that have been stamped and cooked.

Syzygium cordatum Hochst. (Liengme 49)
muhlwa/muthwa

This tree occurs along streams and rivers in the Lowveld Sour Bushveld. The fruit is eaten.

Tabernaemontana elegans Stapf (Liengme 206)
nkahla/nkahlwane

The wood is soft and is used for carving spoons. The pulp of the fruit is edible, but it is not certain to what extent it is eaten. The tree occurs in the north-western parts of the study area.

Tecomaria capensis (Thunb.) Spach.
khujana

The young branches of this shrub are used in the manufacture of baskets. The rims of baskets made from *Acacia ataxacantha* wood strips consist of two rings of wood bound to the body of the basket. The inner of these two rings is made from the wood of this shrub.

Terminalia sericea Burch. ex DC. (Liengme 32)
mugosi; nkonolo/nkonola/nkohono

The wood of this tree is used for making door-frames, pestles, spoons and a number of other articles. The root is used to make an emetic.

Themeda triandra Forssk.
kondze; mbvume; xivopfu

This is one of the grasses used for thatching in the traditional way.

Trichilia emetica Vahl (Liengme 101, 209)
nkuhlu

Oil is extracted from the seeds and used for medicinal purposes. The pulp of the fruit is said to be edible. The wood is one of those from which a certain type of musical bow is made.

Turraea obtusifolia Hochst. (Liengme 125)
mbhovane

Herbalists use the crushed leaves and fruit of this shrub to make an enema.

Tylosema fassoglensis (Schweinf.) Torre & Hillc.
(Liengme 47)
nthamula

The roots of this creeper yield a brown dye when crushed in water. The twigs are used in basket-making and the seeds are roasted and eaten.

Vangueria infausta Burch. (Liengme 99)
mpfilwa; ntswila

This small tree occurs occasionally in the Lowveld Sour Bushveld. The fruit is eaten and the pulp of the fruit is sometimes added to milk to make it sour.

Xeromphis obovata (Hochst.) Keay
mutungababara

The fruit of this Arid Lowveld shrub is used to make an emetic. It is believed that the crushed roots, if given to a patient, drive out demons.

Xerophyta retinervis Bak.
sirudzu

This plant occurs on rocky hills and ridges in the lowveld areas. The plants are tied together to make brooms and are also used as fuel for firing pots.

Ximenia americana L. var. *microphylla* Welw.
(Liengme 231, 225)
musomuwu; ntsengele; ntsengele yantsongo

The fruits are eaten. The plant occurs on hills in the Arid Lowveld and Mopane Veld.

Ximenia caffra Sond. var. *caffra* (Liengme 114, 230)
This species also has fruit which are eaten.

Zanthoxylum capense (Thunb.) Harv. (Liengme 58)
khinungumorupa; manhungwane; nugani; xirhombheleta

The roots are cooked in the water to make a medicine for colds. The leaves are crushed and put in the nose as a decongestant.

Zea mays L.*
mavele

This is the most important crop cultivated by the Tsonga. It forms the basis of their diet in the form of meal and on the cob. The crop is cultivated all over Gazankulu, even in dry areas. The Tsonga name given here is actually the word used to describe any grain crop. There are several other names given to parts of the plant or referring to different stages of its growth. For example, 'nan'wanyi' is a very young plant; 'mphovo' is an immature ear of maize.

Ziziphus mucronata Willd. subsp. *mucronata*
ncecenyi; mphasamhala

This is a widespread tree, quite common in the Arid Lowveld. The fruit is eaten, mostly by children.

DISCUSSION

Food plants

Of the wild plants listed as being sources of edible fruit or leaves it would seem that the most important are:

Sclerocarya caffra (fruit)
Strychnos species (fruit)
Diospyros mespiliformis (fruit)
Parinari curatellifolia subsp. *mobola* (fruit)
Bidens pilosa (leaves)
Corchorus species (leaves), and
Amaranthus thunbergii (leaves).

These are widely and commonly used. The last three are used in relishes/sauces which are eaten with maize meal (*Zea mays*), the staple food.

The fruit of *Sclerocarya* is highly prized, being used to make a beer called 'bukanye'. *Diospyros*,

Strychnos and *Parinari* fruits are important as they ripen in late winter and early spring, when cultivated foods are scarce. *Strychnos madagascariensis* fruit is especially important in times of drought, as the dried pulp can keep for months.

Most of the other edible fruits of the study area are small and mostly eaten by children, sometimes by adults.

The Tsonga diet consists mainly of cultivated food plants. *Zea mays* is the staple food, being widely cultivated. *Pennisetum americanum* subsp. *americanum* (millet) is also cultivated, mainly to provide malt for brewing beer.

Common vegetable crops include:

sweet potato — *Ipomoea batatas*
pumpkin — *Cucurbita pepo*
squash — *Cucurbita maxima*
beans — *Phaseolus* sp.
peanuts — *Arachis hypogaea*
calabash — *Lagenaria siceraria*

The pigeon pea, *Cajanus cajan*, cassava, *Manihot utilisima* and tomatoes, onions, spinach and leeks are less frequently cultivated. Sugar-cane, *Saccharum officinale*, is also grown in some areas.

The Tsonga generally cook once a day and the main meal consists of mealie meal (*Zea mays* meal), 'vuswa', and savoury, 'xixevo'. The latter can be vegetables or sauce (consisting of wild leaves, spinach, peanuts, marula nuts, beans or any other cultivated vegetable) or meat. Flying-ants, grasshoppers and mopane worms are also eaten.

Tsonga alcoholic beverages are made from marula fruit, sugar-cane, maize meal, sorghum and millet, some being more potent than others.

Building (including thatching)

The traditional Tsonga hut of recent times consists of wood and mud walls and a conical roof consisting of a wooden framework covered with thatch. The roof is often supported by poles outside the perimeter of the walls. A hut requires a fair amount of both wood, in the form of poles, sticks and wattles, and grass. Fences and stockades are often made entirely out of wood and large quantities of wood are used in these structures. In the remoter areas all building timber is obtained from the indigenous vegetation, whilst in less remote areas with access to plantations, *Eucalyptus* is often used.

The traditional method of thatching roofs is to tie grass into mats called 'makenye'. Grass species such as *Themeda triandra*, *Heteropogon contortus* or *Setaria* spp. are used. The mats are rolled up and stacked until the roof is ready to be thatched. Then the mats are laid out on the roof, starting at the lower edge of the roof, and secured.

This thatching is of inferior quality to that produced by the method of reverse-thatching, a less common method of thatching in Gazankulu. The reason for this latter type of thatching not being common is that it requires grass species like *Hyperthelia dissoluta* and *Hyparrhenia* spp. and these hardly occur in the Arid Lowveld and Mopane Veld vegetation types which cover the greater part of Gazankulu. They do occur in the Lowveld Sour Bushveld and reverse-thatched roofs are somewhat commoner here. Good thatch-grass can be bought from other areas by those who can afford it.

Reverse-thatched roofs are far more permanent than the others, lasting up to 30 years and longer.

The traditional thatched roofs need replacing every few years.

Much grass is required to thatch a single roof and the women may walk many kilometres to collect sufficient grass. The women collect and clean the thatch, but it is the men who do the thatching.

Medicinal plants

Much of the information collected on medicinal uses of plants was obtained from a herbalist, Mr Mondlane. Some of his cures are commonly known amongst the Blacks; for example, a stomach medicine made from the roots of *Capparis tomentosa*. Many of his medicines appear not to have been previously recorded. Eye-drops made from *Aptosium lineare* and a cure for broken bones made from a *Leonotis* sp. are two examples.

This herbalist had a wide knowledge of the medicinal uses of plants and knew as well that some plants only grew in certain parts of Gazankulu. To collect all the plants he needed he travelled quite long distances. Besides the specialist knowledge of herbalists, the people also have a knowledge of medicinal plants. For example, *Clematis brachiata* is commonly used to cure colds and headaches. Often the people know that a plant is used by the 'doctors' for curing a condition, but do not know how it is used because that is the 'doctor's' secret.

Utensils and basketry

Although some of the traditional utensils have been replaced by modern goods available at any trading store, many are still in very wide use. Mortars and pestles as well as winnowing baskets are to be seen everywhere, as are wooden spoons and stirrers and conical baskets. Calabashes still have their traditional use in beer drinking. Utensils which are bought from a store are usually tin/enamel mugs, basins and plates, buckets and 3-legged cast-iron pots. Basket-making is one craft which has not died out completely, having been stimulated in some parts by demand from tourists. Baskets are of various types and are made from several materials. Conical baskets are used for storing mealie meal, beans and other food. These are made from *Cocculus hirsutus* stems or plaited grass culms, wound around in circles one above the other, each bound to the one below by *Cocculus* stems split in half. Twilled baskets are made from thin strips of *Acacia ataxacantha* wood or *Hyphaene natalensis* fronds. The latter plant is, however, scarce and baskets made from it are now rare. Twilled baskets include the shallow, saucer-like winnowing baskets, spherical baskets with or without lids and 'wallets'. Beer strainers are also twilled. The winnowing baskets and the spherical baskets are common. The body of these baskets is made from *Acacia ataxacantha* wood strips. The rim is made from wood of *Brachylaena discolor*, *Tecomaria capensis*, *Grewia* spp. or *Lannea stuhlmannii*, and is bound to the body with stems of *Dioscorea cotinifolia*. A third type of basket is made predominantly from a plant called 'staf' in Tsonga; a climber identified as *Secamone alpinii*.

Tsonga botany

Junod (1962), in a brief discussion on Tsonga botany, noted the following:

- (1) that the notion of 'genus' is present in Tsonga taxonomy;
- (2) that species are distinguished by mentioning their habitat or sex; and

(3) diminutives are used to distinguish species.

All three of these aspects were also noted by the researcher. For example, *Faurea saligna* and *F. speciosa*, easily distinguishable by their different leaves, have the same Tsonga name, indicating that they are in the same 'genus' in Tsonga taxonomy. There are several *Grewia* spp. which fall under the name 'nsihana'. Some of the species have other names too, but 'nsihana' seems to be a generic name. Tsonga genera do not necessarily correspond with ours. With regard to the second of the points made by Junod, the fig, *Ficus sycamorus*, is called 'nkuwa' and is distinguished from *F. soldanella*, which is called 'nkuwa ya ntsava', ('ya ntsava' meaning 'of the hill') by the addition of the habitat to the name. *Epaltes gariepina* and *Blumea aurita* have the same name 'munywane' but are distinguished as being female and male forms respectively. Diminutives were noted as well. For example, *Berchemia discolor* is 'nyiri' and *B. zeyheri* is 'nyiyani', 'the little 'nyiri'. Diminutives are also indicated by the suffix '-ntsongo' to the plant name, as in the case of *Phyllanthus reticulatus* which is called 'swatima lowutsonga', 'the little 'swatima'. *Bridelia mollis* is 'swatima'.

A much more complete list of Tsonga plant names and their uses is necessary in order to make a more detailed analysis of Tsonga taxonomy.

UITTREKSEL

'n Studie is in 'n deel van die Tsonga-tuisland, Gazankulu, onderneem om plante wat deur hierdie mense gebruik word te identifiseer. 'n Lys van Tsonga-plantname is met behulp van 'n Tsonga-Engelse woordeboek opgestel as basis vir die studie. Die gebruike van bykans 200 plante vir, onder andere, medisinale doeleindes, voedsel, boumateriaal, vuurmaakhout, huishoudelike gereedskap, implemente, implementestele en speelgoed is aangeteken. Hierdie inligting word in die vorm van 'n verklarende lys van die plante aangebied. Dit word gevolg deur 'n bespreking van sommige van die meer belangrike gebruike. Sommige aspekte van Tsonga taksonomie word kortliks bespreek en met voorbeelde toegelig.

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- APPENDIX A**
- INDEX OF PLANT USES**
- Baskets:** *Acacia ataxacantha*, *Brachylaena discolor* subsp. *transvaalensis*, *Cocculus hirsutus*, *Dioscorea cotinifolia*, *Grewia flavescens* var. *flavescens*, *Hyphaene natalensis*, *Lannea stuhlmannii*, *Tecomaria capensis*, *Tylosema fassoglensis*.
- Beads:** *Bauhinia galpinii*.
- Beverage (Alcoholic):** *Garcinia livingstonei*, *Pennisetum americanum* subsp. *americanum*, *Phoenix reclinata*, *Sclerocarya caffra*.
- Beverage (Non-Alcoholic):** *Athrixia phylicoides*.
- Buildings (Timber):** *Acacia caffra*, *A. nigrescens*, *Adina microcephala* var. *galpinii*, *Azelia quanzensis*, *Colophospermum mopane*, *Combretum apiculatum* subsp. *apiculatum*, *C. hereroense* subsp. *hereroense* var. *hereroense*, *C. imberbe*, *Cussonia spicata*, *Diospyros mespiliformis*, *Dombeya rotundifolia* var. *rotundifolia*, *Eucalyptus* spp., *Faurea saligna*, *F. speciosa*, *Melia azedarach*, *Terminalia sericea*.
- Building (Withies):** *Antidesma venosum*, *Brachylaena discolor* subsp. *transvaalensis*, *Catha edulis*, *Combretum hereroense* subsp. *hereroense* var. *hereroense*, *Cordia ovalis*, *Diospyros natalensis* subsp. *natalensis*, *Euclea crispa* var. *crispa*, *Ficus capreaefolia*, *Securinea virosa*, *Strychnos madagascariensis*.
- Cordage:** *Acacia karroo*, *Colophospermum mopane*, *Dombeya burgessiae*, *Ficus burkei*, *Hibiscus cannabinus*, *Lannea discolor*, *L. stuhlmannii*.
- Dye:** *Lannea stuhlmannii*, *Tylosema fassoglensis*.
- Fencing:** (including palisades) *Acacia caffra*, *Bambusa* sp., *Colophospermum mopane*, *Combretum apiculatum* subsp. *apiculatum*, *Diospyros natalensis* subsp. *natalensis*, *Erythrina lysistemon*, *Peltophorum africanum*, *Phragmites mauritianus*.
- Fibre:** *Agave* spp., *Artabotrys brachypetalus*, *Gossypium herbaceum* var. *africanum*, *Sansevieria hyacinthoides*.
- Fodder:** *Piliostigma thonningii*.
- Food:** *Adansonia digitata*, *Amaranthus thunbergii*, *Annona senegalensis*, *Antidesma venosum*, *Arachis hypogea*, *Artabotrys brachypetalus*, *Bequaertiodendron magalismontanum*, *Berchemia discolor*, *Bidens pilosa*, *Bridelia micrantha*, *B. mollis*, *Cajanus cajan*, *Capsicum frutescens*, *Carissa edulis*, *Cassia occidentalis*, *Cephalanthus natalensis*, *Colocasia antiquorum*, *Combretum paniculatum* subsp. *microphyllum*, *Corchorus confusus*, *C. tridens*, *Cordia ovalis*, *Cucumis melo*, *Cucurbita maxima*, *C. pepo*, *Diospyros mespiliformis*, *D. natalensis* subsp. *natalensis*, *Euclea divinorum*, *Ficus capensis*, *F. capreaefolia*, *F. soldanella*, *F. sonderi*, *F. stuhlmannii*, *F. sycamorus*, *Flacourtia indica*, *Garcinia livingstonei*, *Grewia flavescens* var. *flavescens*, *G. flavescens* var. *olukondae*, *G. occidentalis*, *Hexalobus monopetalus*, *Ipomoea batatas*, *Lagenaria siceraria*, *Landolphia kirkii*, *Lannea discolor*, *L. edulis*, *L. stuhlmannii*, *Lantana rugosa*, *Manihot utilisima*, *Mimusops zeyheri*, *Opuntia ficus-indica*, *Pappea capensis*, *Parinari curatellifolia* subsp. *mobola*, *Pennisetum americanum* subsp. *americanum*, *Phaseolus* spp., *Phyllanthus reticulatus*, *P. verrucosus*, *Physalis peruviana*, *Plectranthus esculentus*, *Saccarum officinale*, *Sclerocarya caffra*, *Securinea virosa*, *Strychnos madagascariensis*, *S. spinosa*, *Syzgium cordatum*, *Tabernaemontana elegans*, *Trichilia emetica*, *Tylosema fassoglensis*, *Vangueria infausta*, *Ximenia americana* var. *microphylla*, *X. caffra* var. *caffra*, *Zea mays*, *Zizyphus mucronata* subsp. *mucronata*.
- Food (Famine):** *Kigelia africana*.
- Fuel:** *Acacia ataxacantha*, *A. caffra*, *A. davyi*, *A. gerrardii* var. *gerrardii*, *A. karroo*, *A. sieberana* var. *woodii*, *A. tortilis* subsp. *heteracantha*, *Albizia harveyi*, *Allophylus decipiens*, *Brachylaena discolor* subsp. *transvaalensis*, *Colophospermum mopane*, *Combretum erythrophyllum*, *Dichrostachys cinerea* subsp. *africana*, *Dovyalis zeyheri*, *Faurea saligna*, *F. speciosa*, *Ficus capensis*, *Maytenus heterophylla*, *Ozoroa engleri*, *O. reticulata* subsp. *reticulata* var. *reticulata*, *Xerophyta retinervis*.
- Furniture:** *Bolusanthus speciosus*, *Burkea africana*, *Faurea saligna*, *F. speciosa*.
- Games and Toys:** *Aloe davyana*, *Annona senegalensis*.
- Implements and utensils:** *Acacia nigrescens*, *Adina microcephala* var. *galpinii*, *Albizia versicolor*, *Berchemia discolor*, *Cassine transvaalensis*, *Colophospermum mopane*, *Combretum apicula-*

tum subsp. apiculatum, *C. imberbe*, *Commiphora pyracanthoides*, *Diospyros mespiliformis*, *Dombeya rotundifolia* var. *rotundifolia*, *Heteropyxis natalensis*, *Lagenaria siceraria*, *Lippia javanica*, *Maytenus heterophylla*, *Peltophorum africanum*, *Pittosporum viridiflorum*, *Pseudolachnostylis maprouneaeifolia*, *Ptaeroxylon obliquum*, *Pterocarpus angolensis*, *P. rotundifolius* subsp. *rotundifolius*, *Sclerocarya caffra*, *Spirostachys africanus*, *Tabernaemontana elegans*, *Terminalia sericea*, *Xerophyta retinervis*.

Implement handles: *Acacia ataxacantha*, *Berchemia discolor*, *Bolusanthus speciosus*, *Cassine transvaalensis*, *Combretum apiculatum* subsp. *apiculatum*, *C. hereroense* subsp. *hereroense* var. *hereroense*, *Commiphora pyracanthoides*.

Living fences and hedges: *Dodonea viscosa* var. *viscosa*, *Erythrina lysistemon*, *Pterolobium stellatum*.

Magic: *Asparagus virgatus*, *Gardenia spatulifolia*, *Kigelia africana*, *Sarcostemma viminale*.

Mats: *Cyperus latifolius*, *C. sexangularis*, *Phoenix reclinata*, *Scirpus inclinatus*, *Sporobolus africanus*.

Medicine: *Albizia versicolor*, *Aptosimum lineare*, *Artabotrys brachypetalus*, *Asclepias burchellii*, *Balanites maughamii*, *Blumea aurita*, *B. gariepina*, *Bridelia micrantha*, *Capparis fascicularis* var. *fascicularis*, *C. tomentosa*, *Clematis brachiata*, *Croton megalobotrys*, *Cryptolepis capensis*, *Cyphostemma humile* subsp. *humile*, *Epaltes gariepina*, *Gnidia rubescens*, *Leonotis* sp., *Lippia javanica*, *Lonchocarpus capassa*, *Maerua angolensis*, *M. parvifolia*, *Rhoicissus digitata*, *Ricinus communis*, *Sclerocarya caffra*, *Solanum incanum*, *S. panduraeforme*, *Spilanthes mauritiana*, *Terminalia sericea*, *Trichilia emetica*, *Turraea obtusifolia*, *Xeromphis obovata*, *Zanthoxylum capense*.

Musical instruments (including drums): *Balanites maughamii*, *Calodendron capense*, *Commiphora pyracanthoides*, *Cordia grandicalyx*, *Grewia flavescens* var. *flavescens*, *Oncoba spinosa*, *Sclerocarya caffra*, *Trichilia emetica*.

Oil: *Jatropha curcas*, *Ricinus communis*, *Trichilia emetica*.

Plug: *Pluchea dioscorides*.

Shade trees: *Adina microcephala* var. *galpinii*, *Albizia harveyi*, *A. versicolor*, *Cassia abbreviata* subsp. *beareana*, *Ekebergia capensis*.

Snuff: *Amaranthus cruentus*.

Soap (including shampoo): *Dicerocaryum zanguebarium* subsp. *zanguebarium*.

Thatch: *Cymbopogon validus*, *Heteropogon contortus*, *Hyparrhenia dichroa*, *H. dregeana*, *H. hirta*, *H. rudis*, *H. tamba*, *Hyperthelia dissoluta*, *Phragmites mauritanus*, *Setaria* sp., *Sporobolus africanus*, *Themeda triandra*.

Veterinary medicine: *Pterocarpus angolensis*.

Woodcarving: *Albizia versicolor*, *Berchemia discolor*, *Bolusanthus speciosus*, *Cassine aethiopica*, *Combretum hereroense* subsp. *hereroense* var. *hereroense*, *Crossopteryx febrifugia*, *Dalbergia melanoxylon*, *Gardenia spatulifolia*, *Ptaeroxylon obliquum*, *Pterocarpus angolensis*, *Spirostachys africanus*.

guvazwivi
guxe
guxe

K
khalavatla
khawa
khinungumorupa

khujana
kofi yanhova
kondze
kotoni
kumbekumbe

L
lumanyama

M (Ma-)
maamba
mahlanganiso
mahoba

malanguti
manga
manhungwane

mavele

(Mb--Mo-)
mbhandzu/mbhandzwa
mbhesa/mbhesa
mbhesu/mbheswi
mbhesana
mbhimbi/mhimbi
mbhovane
mbhovhu

mbhovu
mbikanyaka

mbimba
mbomu

mbovu
mbulwa

mbvinyaxihloka
mbvume
mbvuvu/mvuvu

mfute

mgula

mgupa

mhangani

mibululu
mikoka
mindzere/mundzere/ndzerhe

miseha

mixaka

mola/molani
molela
mondzo
mova
mowu/muwu

(Mp--Mt-)
mpfalambati

mpfilwa
mpfimbahongoni

mpfungu/mpfungurhu
mpfunta

mpfunte-mpfunte

Pappea capensis Eckl. & Zeyh.
Corchorus confusus Wild
Corchorus tridens L.

Cucurbita maxima Duch.
Capparis tomentosa Lam.
Zanthoxylum capense (Thunb.)
Harv.
Tecomaria capensis (Thunb.)
Spach
Athrixia phyllicoides DC.
Themeda triandra Forssk.
Asclepias burchellii Schltr.
Bridelia mollis Hutch.

Cassia abbreviata Oliv. subsp.
beareana (Holmes) Brenan

Clematis brachiata Thunb.
Leonotis sp.
Pennisetum americanum (L.)
Leeke subsp. *americanum*
Physalis peruviana L.
Arachis hypogaea L.
Zanthoxylum capense (Thunb.)
Harv.
Zea mays L.

Lonchocarpus capassa Rolfe
Rhoicissus digitata Gilg & Brandt
Albizia versicolor Welw. ex Oliv.
Rhoicissus digitata Gilg & Brandt
Garcinia livingstonei T. Anders.
Turraea obtusifolia Hochst.
Calodendron capense (L.f.)
Thunb.

Oncoba spinosa Forssk.
Dombeya rotundifolia (Hochst.)
Planch. var. *rotundifolia*
Combretum imberbe Wawra
Hexalobus monopetalus (A.
Rich.) Engl. & Diels
Phoenix reclinata Jacq.
Parinari curatellifolia Planch. ex
Benth. subsp. *mobola* (Oliv.)
R. A. Grah.

Acacia caffra (Thunb.) Willd.
Themeda triandra Forssk.
Combretum erythrophyllum
(Burch.) Sond.
Ozoroa reticulata (Bak. f.) R. &
A. Fernandes subsp. *reticulata*
var. *reticulata*
Diospyros mespiliformis Hochst.
ex A. DC.
Combretum erythrophyllum
(Burch.) Sond.
Aloe davyana Schoenl. var.
davyana

Mimusops zeyheri Sond.
Clematis brachiata Thunb.
Bridelia micrantha (Hochst.)
Baill.
Gossypium herbaceum L. var.
africanum (Watt) J. B. Hutch.
& Ghose
Scirpus inclinatus (Del.) Aschers.
& Schweinf. ex Boiss.
Albizia harveyi Fourn.
Albizia harveyi Fourn.
Combretum imberbe Wawra
Saccharum officinale L.
Adansonia digitata L.

Antidesma venosum E. Mey. ex
Tul.
Vangueria infausta Burch.
Bolusanthus speciosus (H. Bol.)
Harms
Kigelia africana (Lam.) Benth.
Combretum paniculatum Vent.
subsp. *microphyllum* (Klotzsch)
Wickens
Combretum paniculatum Vent.
subsp. *microphyllum* (Klotzsch)
Wickens

APPENDIX B

INDEX OF TSONGA PLANT NAMES

TSONGA NAME	BOTANICAL NAME
B	
bvimba	<i>Pleuchea dioscorides</i> DC.
C	
chipachipachane chochelamandleni yantsongo	<i>Dovyalis zeyheri</i> (Sond.) Warb. <i>Combretum paniculatum</i> Vent. subsp. <i>microphyllum</i> (Klotzsch) Wickens
D	
deke	<i>Cymbopogon validus</i> (Stapf) Stapf ex Burt Davy
dinda/dindza	<i>Dicerocaryum zanguebarium</i> (Lour.) Merr.
G	
gapi gawana gulaswimbi	<i>Ipomoea batatas</i> (L.) Lam. <i>Cucurbita maxima</i> Duch. <i>Pappea capensis</i> Eckl. & Zeyh.

mpfluxane	<i>Mimusops zeyheri</i> Sond.	nchuchungwa	<i>Lannea edulis</i> (Sond.) Engl.
mphasamhala	<i>Zizyphus mucronata</i> Willd. subsp. <i>mucronata</i>	nchugulu	<i>Carissa edulis</i> Vahl
mphata	<i>Brachylaena discolor</i> DC. subsp. <i>transvaalensis</i> (Phill. & Schweick.) J. Paiva	nchuguru/ntshuguru	<i>Carissa edulis</i> Vahl
mphatakhanelo	<i>Pittosporum viridiflorum</i> Sim	ncindzu	<i>Phoenix-reclinata</i> Jacq.
mphatakhwari	<i>Antidesma venosum</i> E. Mey. ex Tul.	nciwana	<i>Grewia flavescens</i> Juss. var. <i>flavescens</i>
mphovo	<i>Zea mays</i> L. (immature plant)	ndazi	<i>Ptaeroxylon obliquum</i> (Thunb.) Radlk.
mpon'wana	<i>Cordia ovalis</i> R. Br. ex DC.	ndhenga/ndzhenga	<i>Dichrostachys cinerea</i> (L.) Wight & Arn. subsp. <i>africana</i> Brenan & Brummitt
mpotsa/mpoza	<i>Combretum apiculatum</i> Sond. subsp. <i>apiculatum</i>	ndivata/ndzivata	<i>Lannea stuhlmannii</i> (Engl.) Engl.
mpotsa/mpoza	<i>Combretum hereroense</i> Schinz subsp. <i>hereroense</i> var. <i>hereroen-</i> <i>se</i>	ndlelane	<i>Cyphostemma humile</i> (N.E. Br.) Desc. ex Wild & Drumm. subsp. <i>humile</i>
mpulu	<i>Burkea africana</i> Hook.	ndleve yandlopfu	<i>Pterocarpus rotundifolius</i> (Sond.) Druce subsp. <i>rotundifolius</i>
mpyalelangala	<i>Pterocarpus rotundifolius</i> (Sond.) Druce subsp. <i>rotundifolius</i>	ndlulamithi	<i>Eucalyptus</i> spp.
mtlele	<i>Cordia ovalis</i> R. Br. ex DC.	ndodzi	<i>Cajanus cajan</i> (L.) Millsp.
(Mu--Mv-)		ndulwane/ndzhulwane	<i>Solanum panduraeforme</i> E. Mey.
mucece	<i>Albizia versicolour</i> Welw. ex Oliv.	ndzari	<i>Ptaeroxylon obliquum</i> (Thunb.) Radlk.
mudodivisa	<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i> Jacq. var. <i>viscosa</i>	ndzedze	<i>Peltophorum africanum</i> Sond.
mudoro	<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i> (L.) Mill.	ndzhopfa/ndzompfa/ndzopfa	<i>Annona senegalensis</i> Pers.
muganukomu	<i>Lannea stuhlmannii</i> (Engl.) Engl.	ndzhulwane	<i>Solanum incanum</i> L.
mugarasaka	<i>Combretum apiculatum</i> Sond. subsp. <i>apiculatum</i>	ndzhuva	<i>Peltophorum africanum</i> Sond.
mugejo	<i>Cymbopogon validus</i> (Stapf) Stapf ex Burt Davy	ndzololwane/nsululwani	<i>Albizia harveyi</i> Fourn.
mugosi	<i>Terminalia sericea</i> Burch. ex DC.	ndzopfori	<i>Spirostachys africanus</i> Sond.
muhadamba	<i>Pterocarpus rotundifolius</i> (Sond.) Druce subsp. <i>rotundifolius</i>	ndzundzuluka/nhundzuluka	<i>Ximenia caffra</i> Sond. var. <i>caffra</i>
muhlome/nhlume	<i>Adina microcephala</i> (Del.) Hiern var. <i>galpinii</i> (Oliv.) Hiern	(Ne--Nj-)	<i>Cassia occidentalis</i> L.
muhlwa	<i>Syzygium cordatum</i> Hochst.	nembenembe	<i>Sarcostemma viminalis</i> (L.) R. Br.
muhobadala	<i>Capparis fascicularis</i> DC. var. <i>fascicularis</i>	neta	<i>Acacia tortilis</i> (Forssk.) Hayne subsp. <i>heteracantha</i> (Burch.) Brenan
mukurhu	<i>Dombeya burgessiae</i> Gerr. ex Harv.	ngoka	<i>Amaranthus cruentus</i> L.
mukorongwe	<i>Capparis tomentosa</i> Lam.	nhlaba yafole	<i>Cyperus sexangularis</i> Nees
muluwa	<i>Acacia ataxacantha</i> DC.	nhlahle	<i>Strychnos cocculoides</i> Bak.
mumbumumbu	<i>Lannea discolor</i> Engl.	nhlala	<i>Strychnos spinosa</i> Lam.
munga	<i>Acacia karroo</i> Hayne	nhlala	<i>Ricinus communis</i> L.
mungu	<i>Landolphia kirkii</i> T.-Dyer	nhlampfurha	<i>Jatropha curcas</i> L.
munywane	<i>Blumea aurita</i> (L.f.) DC.	nhlampfurha yavalungu	<i>Securinea virosa</i> (Roxb. ex Willd.) Pax & K. Hoffm.
munywane	<i>Epaltes gariepina</i> (DC.) Steetz	nhlangawume/nxangawume	<i>Peltophorum africanum</i> Sond.
muono	<i>Strychnos cocculoides</i> Bak.	nhlanhlanu	<i>Euclea divinorum</i> Hiern
muqokolo	<i>Flacourtia indica</i> (Burm. f.) Merr.	nhlangula/nhlohlangule	<i>Mimusops zeyheri</i> Sond.
murhompfa	<i>Annona senegalensis</i> Pers.	nhlantswa	<i>Ipomoea batatas</i> (L.) Lam.
murorongwe	<i>Garcinia livingstonei</i> T. Anders.	nhlata	<i>Ficus burkei</i> (Miq.) Miq.
murhotso	<i>Pterocarpus angolensis</i> DC.	nhlulawumbe	<i>Ficus stuhlmannii</i> Warb.
musengele	<i>Bambusa</i> sp.	nhlulawumbe	<i>Dicerocaryum zanguebarium</i> (Law.) Merr. (seed)
musenje	<i>Cussonia spicata</i> Thunb.	nhlwehlwe	<i>Cyperus latifolius</i> Poir.
musuzwane	<i>Lippia javanica</i> L.	njekejeke	
muthango	<i>Faurea saligna</i> Harv.	(Ni-)	<i>Tabernaemontana elegans</i> Stapf
muthango	<i>Faurea speciosa</i> (Welw.) Welw.	nkahlwa/nkahlwane	<i>Bolusanthus speciosus</i> (H. Bol.) Harms
muthondwa/ntondo	<i>Cephalanthus natalensis</i> Oliv.	nkamba/nkhamba	<i>Sclerocarya caffra</i> Sond.
muthuma	<i>Adina microcephala</i> (Del.) Hiern var. <i>galpinii</i> (Oliv.) Hiern	nkanye/nkanyi	<i>Acacia nigrescens</i> Oliv.
muthwa	<i>Syzygium cordatum</i> Hochst.	nkaya/nkayi	<i>Acacia caffra</i> (Thunb.) Willd.
mutungababara	<i>Xeromphis obovata</i> (Hochst.) Keay	nkenge	<i>Burkea africana</i> Hook.
muvale	<i>Erythrina lysistemon</i> Hutch.	nkhayani	<i>Acacia caffra</i> (Thunb.) Willd.
muvambangoma	<i>Albizia versicolor</i> Welw. ex Oliv.	nkohlwane	<i>Bolusanthus speciosus</i> (H. Bol.) Harms
muvele	<i>Kigelia africana</i> (Lam.) Benth.	nkototso/nkolokotso	<i>Piptostigma thonnongii</i> (Schumach.) M.-Redh.
muvungwa	<i>Landolphia kirkii</i> T.-Dyer	nkombekwa/nkombelwa	<i>Crossopteryx febrifugia</i> (Afzel. ex G. Don) Benth.
muwe	<i>Berchemia discolor</i> (Klotzsch) Hemsl.	nkonola/nkonolo/nkonono	<i>Terminalia sericea</i> Burch. ex DC.
muxiji	<i>Bidens pilosa</i> L.	nkowakowa	<i>Acacia sieberana</i> DC. var. <i>woodii</i> (Burt Davy) Keay & Brenan
muxikijane	<i>Sporobolus africanus</i> (Poir.) Robyns & Tournay	nkubatsebi	<i>Cassine transvaalensis</i> (Burt Davy) Codd
muyataha	<i>Pterocarpus rotundifolius</i> (Sond.) Druce subsp. <i>rotundifolius</i>	nkuhlu	<i>Trichilia emetica</i> Vahl
muyembe	<i>Annona senegalensis</i> Pers.	nkungulatio/nkwangulatio	<i>Asparagus virgatus</i> Bak.
muzuzugwane xihlahla	<i>Allophylus decipiens</i> Radlk.	nkuwa	<i>Ficus capensis</i> Thunb.
mvhangazi	<i>Pterocarpus angolensis</i> DC.	nkuwa	<i>Ficus sycamorus</i> L.
mvhangazi wobasa	<i>Albizia versicolor</i> Welw. ex Oliv.	nkuwa yatintsava	<i>Ficus soldanella</i> Warb.
		nkwakwa	<i>Strychnos madagascariensis</i> Poir.
N (Na--Nd-)		(Nn--Nt-)	
nalä	<i>Hyphaene natalensis</i> Kunze	nombela	<i>Bequaertiodendron magalismon-</i> <i>tanum</i> (Sond.) Heine & J. H. Hemsl.
neceneyi	<i>Zizyphus mucronata</i> Willd. subsp. <i>mucronata</i>	nongonongo	<i>Maerua parvifolia</i> Pax
ncenga	<i>Dichrostachys cinerea</i> (L.) Wight & Arn. subsp. <i>africana</i> Brenan & Brummitt	nqokolo	<i>Flacourtia indica</i> (Burm. f.) Merr.
nchindu-lisundu	<i>Phoenix reclinata</i> Jacq.	nsala	<i>Strychnos spinosa</i> Lam.
nchowana	<i>Oncoba spinosa</i> Forssk.	nsangasa	<i>Securinea virosa</i> (Roxb. ex Willd.) Pax & K. Hoffm.

nsasani	<i>Acacia tortilis</i> (Forssk.) Hayne subsp. <i>heteracantha</i> (Burch.) Brenan	rihlanga rikatsi/rikatsu	<i>Phragmites mauritianus</i> Kunth <i>Pterolobium stellatum</i> (Forssk.) Brenan
nsasani	<i>Acacia gerrardii</i> Benth. var. <i>ger- radii</i>	rindanga	<i>Lagenaria siceraria</i> (Molina) Standl.
nsidwa nsihana	<i>Dioscorea cotinifolia</i> Kunth <i>Grewia flavescens</i> Juss. var. <i>flavescens</i>	rirhulwane risama risidwa risotse/rixoto rithadzi	<i>Solanum panduraeforme</i> E. Mey. <i>Cyperus sexangularis</i> Nees <i>Dioscorea cotinifolia</i> Kunth <i>Cocculus hirsutus</i> (L.) Diels <i>Catha edulis</i> (Vahl) Forsk. ex Endl.
nsihana yokulu	<i>Grewia flavescens</i> Juss. var. <i>olukondae</i> (Schinz) Wild		<i>Ipomoea batatas</i> (L.) Lam.
nsihaphukuma	<i>Dombeya rotundifolia</i> (Hochst.) Planch. var. <i>rotundifolia</i>	rityi rupi	<i>Colocasia antiquorum</i> Schott.
nsisimbana ntamungu nthada/ntheda nthamula	<i>Erythrina lysistemon</i> Hutch. <i>Carissa edulis</i> Vahl <i>Plectranthus esculentus</i> N.E. Br. <i>Tylosema fassoglensis</i> (Schweinf.) Torre & Hillc.	S sirudzu sitole	<i>Xerophyta retinervis</i> Bak. <i>Xeromphis obovata</i> (Hochst.) Keay
nthatasani nthethenya nthuma nthuma nkulu ntinta/ntita/ntiti ntogwe ntoma	<i>Heteropyxis natalensis</i> Harv. <i>Phyllanthus reticulatus</i> Poir. <i>Solanum panduraeforme</i> E. Mey. <i>Solanum incanum</i> L. <i>Artabotrys brachypetalus</i> Benth. <i>Cordia grandicalyx</i> Oberm. <i>Diospyros mespiliformis</i> Hochst. ex A. DC.	swatima swatima lowutsongo swimbyambya	<i>Bridelia mollis</i> Hutch. <i>Phyllanthus reticulatus</i> Poir. <i>Bridelia mollis</i> Hutch.
ntomantomane	<i>Diospyros natalensis</i> (Harv.) Brenan subsp. <i>natalensis</i>	T thyeka/thyeke tihove tavalungu tlongwe	<i>Amaranthus thunbergii</i> Moq. <i>Lantana rugosa</i> Thumb. <i>Hyparrhenia dichroa</i> (Steud.) Stapf.
ntomantomane	<i>Euclea crispa</i> (Thunb.) Guerke var. <i>crispa</i>	tlongwe tlongwe	<i>Hyparrhenia hirta</i> (L.) Stapf <i>Hyparrhenia tamba</i> (Hochst. ex Steud.) Anders. ex Stapf
ntsalala	<i>Gardenia spatulifolia</i> Stapf & Hutch.	tongwaan tshaman'hwati	<i>Oncoba spinosa</i> Forssk. <i>Cordia grandicalyx</i> Oberm.
ntsenga	<i>Hyparrhenia dichroa</i> (Steud.) Stapf	V viriviri vucema vungwane	<i>Capsicum frutescens</i> L. <i>Hyphaene natalensis</i> Kunze <i>Scirpus inclinatus</i> (Del.) Aschers. & Schweinf. ex Boiss.
ntsenga	<i>Hyparrhenia dregeana</i> (Nees) Stapf ex Stent		
ntsenga	<i>Hyparrhenia hirta</i> (L.) Stapf		
ntsenga	<i>Hyparrhenia rudis</i> Stapf		
ntsenga	<i>Hyperthelia dissoluta</i> (Nees) Clayton		
ntsembyane/ntswembyane ntsegele	<i>Hibiscus cannabinus</i> L. <i>Ximenia americana</i> L. var. <i>microphylla</i> Welw. ex Oliv.	X xicakala xicindzu xidengana	<i>Setaria</i> sp. <i>Phoenix reclinata</i> Jacq. <i>Ptilostigma thonningii</i> (Schu- mach.) M.-Red.
ntsegele	<i>Ximenia caffra</i> Sond. var. <i>caffra</i>		<i>Commiphora pyracanthoides</i> Engl.
ntsegele yantsongo	<i>Ximenia americana</i> L. var. <i>microphylla</i> Welw. ex Oliv.	xifata/xifati	<i>Melia azedarach</i> L.
ntsephukane ntshiriri/ntshwiriri ntsonde ntsumbulu ntswila ntswukelane ntungufana	<i>Grewia occidentalis</i> L. <i>Bauhinia galpinii</i> N. E. Br. <i>Pterocarpus angolensis</i> DC. <i>Manihot utilisima</i> Pohl <i>Vangueria infausta</i> Burch. <i>Grewia occidentalis</i> L. <i>Lippia javanica</i> L.	xifiringoma xigoya xihlangwa/xilangwa xihovane xikhavi	<i>Cyperus latifolius</i> Poir. <i>Maytenus heterophylla</i> (Eckl. & Zeyh.) N. Robson <i>Setaria</i> sp. <i>Combretum hereroense</i> Schinz subsp. <i>hereroense</i> var. <i>here- roense</i>
(Nu--Nz-) nugani	<i>Zanthoxylum capense</i> (Thunb.) Harv.	xikukutsu	<i>Combretum apiculatum</i> Sond. subsp. <i>apiculatum</i>
nulu numanyama	<i>Balanites maughanii</i> Sprague <i>Cassia abbreviata</i> Oliv. subsp. <i>beareana</i> (Holmes) Brenan	xikwakwaxu xikwenga	<i>Pappea capensis</i> Eckl. & Zeyh. <i>Sansevieria hyacinthoides</i> (L.) Druce
nxakama	<i>Hexalobus monopetalus</i> (A. Rich.) Engl. & Diels	xikwenga xilangamahlo xilungwa	<i>Agave</i> sp. <i>Spirostachys africanus</i> Sond. <i>Heteropogon contortus</i> (L.) Beauv. ex Roem. & Schult.
nxanatsi	<i>Colophospermum mopane</i> (Kirk ex Benth.) Kirk ex J. Léonard	xilutana xilutsi	<i>Cucurbita maxima</i> Duch. <i>Dalbergia melanoxydon</i> Guill. & Perr.
nxelana/nxelela	<i>Pterocarpus rotundifolius</i> (Sond.) Druce subsp. <i>rotundifolius</i>	xiluvathi	<i>Dombeya rotundifolia</i> (Hochst.) Planch. var. <i>rotundifolia</i>
nxenhe nxojowa	<i>Afzelia quanzensis</i> Welw. <i>Pseudolachnostylis maprouneae- folia</i> Pax	ximahlomahlwane	<i>Aptosimum lineare</i> Marloth & Engl.
nxunguxungu/nxungwezu- ngwe nyamarhi nyawa nyiri/nyiyi	<i>Croton megalobotrys</i> Müll. Arg. <i>Ekebergia capensis</i> Sparrm. <i>Phaseolus</i> sp. <i>Berchemia discolor</i> (Klotzsch) Hemsl.	ximapana	<i>Cassine transvaalensis</i> (Burtl Davy) Codd
nyokani	<i>Cryptolepis capensis</i> Schltr.	ximbukanyi ximombonkanyi ximombyana/ximupyani ximowu/ximuwu ximutswani xinkanyana xinkuwana xinungu	<i>Lannea stuhlmannii</i> (Engl.) Engl. <i>Lannea stuhlmannii</i> (Engl.) Engl. <i>Lannea discolor</i> (Sond.) Engl. <i>Adansonia digitata</i> L. <i>Lannea discolor</i> (Sond.) Engl. <i>Lannea discolor</i> (Sond.) Engl. <i>Ficus capreaefolia</i> Del. <i>Ozoroa reticulata</i> (Bak. f.) R & A Fernandes subsp. <i>reticulata</i> var. <i>reticulata</i>
N' n'wamidzumba n'wamidzumba	<i>Faurea saligna</i> Harv. <i>Faurea speciosa</i> (Welw.) Welw.	xinungumafi	<i>Ozoroa engleri</i> R. & A. Fernan- des
P phalavurha pundze	<i>Ficus capreaefolia</i> Del. <i>Setaria</i> sp.	xinyokanyokane xipalatsi	<i>Gnidia rubescens</i> B. Peterson <i>Dalbergia melanoxydon</i> Guill. & Perr.
R raboda rhangha rhangha ricinda	<i>Colocasia antiquorum</i> Schott <i>Cucurbita maxima</i> Duch. <i>Cucumis melo</i> L. <i>Gossypium herbaceum</i> L. var. <i>africanum</i> (Watt) J. B. Hutch & Ghose	xipokota xiputu xirhombe/xirhomberhombe xirhombe/xirhomberhombe	<i>Cussonia spicata</i> Thunb. <i>Blumea gariepina</i> DC. <i>Ficus burkei</i> (Miq.) Miq. <i>Ficus stuhlmannii</i> Warb.

xirhombehleta	<i>Zanthoxylum capense</i> (Thunb.) Harv.	xivopfu	<i>Themeda triandra</i> Forssk.
xirhomerhombe xantsava	<i>Ficus sonderi</i> Miq.	xivudzi	<i>Artabotrys brachypetalus</i> Benth.
xisidani	<i>Acacia davyi</i> N.E. Br.	xixwene/xixwenelamhofu	<i>Spilanthes mauritania</i> (Pers.) DC.
xitsalala	<i>Gardenia spatulifolia</i> Stapf & Hutch.	xiyimanamurhi	<i>Maerua angolensis</i> DC.
xivambula	<i>Flacourtia indica</i> (Burm. f.) Merr.	xotse/xotso	<i>Cocculus hirsutus</i> (L.) Diels