

Commiphora arafy H. Perrier

Arofy mena

Large tree that is less common than the *C. guillaumini*. Distinguished from the other two *Commiphora* species by the lack of green bark.



Description

Stature:

Size: large tree.

Bark: peeling in thin sheets. All parts are dark brown with a reddish tinge.

Leaves: alternate, imparipinnate.

Flower: male and female flowers on separate inflorescences

Fruit: ovoid fleshy drupe to 1.5cm containing a single seed. Pale green when unripe.

Seed: covered by a thin aril.

Burseraceae

Striking features

- dark brown reddish bark peeling in thin sheets.



Ecology

Status and distribution: This genus has 190 species in the tropics and there are 20 endemic Malagasy species.

Habitat requirements:

Phenology:

Kirindy: uncommon.

Reproduction:

Other: Gums & sap eaten by fork-marked lemurs (*Phaner furcifer*).

Uses

Formerly was an important timber species.

The wood has a fine grain. It is fairly durable but not resistant to termites. Used for a variety of purposes.

Sources and further information

General:

Botanical description: Abraham (1991) p 27.

Forestry: Grisa (1987)

Kirindy: Anon. (1993) no. 86 & 302.

Herbarium specimen: www.aluka.org,

<http://mobot.mobot.org>, www.efloras.org