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Morus mesozygia Stapf

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Moribane Forest, Mozambique



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Synonyms: *Morus lactea* (Sim) Mildbr.

Common names: African mulberry (English)

Frequency:**Status:** Native**Description:** Medium-sized to large, spreading deciduous tree with white latex. Leaves ovate or elliptic, thinly textured, 5-15 cm long, glossy dark green above dull and paler below, hairless, distinctly 3-veined from the base, prominent on both surfaces; apex tapering into a long narrow driptip; margin serrate or dentate, mainly in the apical half. Inflorescences axillary, unisexual on different trees; male flowers in spikes; female flowers in rounded heads. Fruit a subglobose cluster of small berry-like syncarps, c. 1.5 cm in diameter, pale green when ripe.**Notes:** In Zimbabwe it is only known from a few specimens in the Rusitu Valley.**Derivation of specific name:** **mesozygia:** from meso-, middle and -zygon, joined (Gr); possibly referring to the fact that the segments or syncarps of the fruit are only partially joined, compared to the more compact and completely joined syncarps in the cultivated mul**Habitat:** Occurring in evergreen forest.**Altitude range:**
(metres)**Flowering time:** Oct - Nov**Worldwide distribution:** From Senegal to Ethiopia and South to Angola, Zambia and KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.**Zimbabwe distribution:** E**Growth form(s):** Tree.**Endemic status:****Red data list status:** Critically Endangered**Insects associated with this species:** **Cyrestis camillus sublineata** (Larval foodplant)
spilosoma lineata (Larval foodplant)**Spot characters:** **Display spot characters for this species****Images last updated:** Saturday 19 September 2009**Literature:** **Berg, C.C. (1991).** *Moraceae Flora Zambesiaca* **9(6)** Pages 14 - 16. (Includes a picture).
Coates Palgrave K. (revised and updated by Meg Coates Palgrave) (2002). *Trees of Southern Africa* 3rd edition. Struik, South Africa Page 130.

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Hyde, M.A., Wursten, B.T., Ballings, P. & Coates Palgrave, M. (2017). *Flora of Zimbabwe: Species information: Morus mesozygia*. http://www.zimbabweflora.co.zw/speciesdata/species.php?species_id=120130, retrieved 20 September 2017

