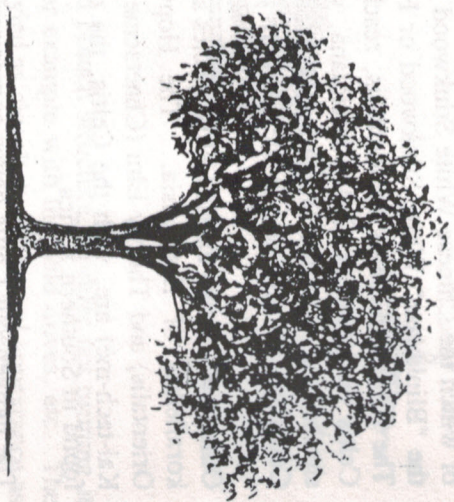


III. IDENTIFICATION OF THE INDIGENOUS WHITE STINKWOODS:

1. Celtis africana

The *Celtis africana* is a deciduous tree reaching heights of 15 to 20m. When growing on its own it has a spreading crown, known in bonsai terms as the broom style. In a forest it grows more upright, in search of light. The finely diagonally corrugated bark has a light grey colour.



The leaves are slightly fleecy, ovate and have a pointed tip. Leaves have a marked triple vein arising from the base.



Only the upper part of the leaf is toothed.

The striking lime-green flowers are carried in clusters at the tips of the branches.

The seeds are round and yellow, later turning a reddish brown colour. They are edible and have a sweetish taste.

Celtis is a Latin name for one of the plants which was thought to be the Lotus of ancient times. This name was given to a number of plants, especially trees, which in the Greek mythology had the ability to make people, who ate the fruit, forget about their friends and country and live in happy oblivion forever. The name Lotus comes from the Egyptian waterlily, which carries beautiful flowers.

When chopped down it has an unpleasant odour, hence the Afrikaans and English names. Other common names are Candebboo-stinkwood and White Stinkwood. The White Stinkwood is not related to the Cape Stinkwood (*Ocotea bullata*), known for its durable wood used for furniture. The *Celtis africana* is protected in the Free State and in some of the former homelands.

2. The False White Stinkwood (*Celtis gomphophylla*)

This species, is mainly found along the Kwa-Zulu Natal and Eastern Cape coasts. It grows more erect than the normal White Stinkwood and can reach heights of up to 25m.

The grey bark is smooth and the leaves are ovate, feeling coarse owing to the stiff hairs growing on them.



The leaf is only slightly toothed and has a slightly drooping tip. It is also slightly bigger than that of the *Celtis africana*. The main vein runs from the petiole to the tip of the leaf, with the side veins evenly divided to the end of the leaf. The seed is yellow when ripe. The wood has a bad odour and many tribal people hang pieces of the bark in their huts to keep away snakes and