

Effects of Bark Harvesting and the Sooty Mould Disease on Fruit Size and Seed Germination Viability in *Adansonia digitata*: A Case of Changadzi Village (Chimanimani District).

By

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Think in Other Terms



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ABSTRACT

A field survey to investigate the effects of bark harvesting and the sooty mould disease on fruit size and seed germination viability in *Adansonia digitata* was carried out in Birchenough Bridge's Changadzi village of Chimanimani District from 31 March to 2 April 2006. A pre-survey was carried out on the 23rd of September 2005. Random surveys on the fruits in the Changadzi village were carried out within systematically closed belt transect 50m wide and 2000m long.

Since there was no standard method for measuring baobab fruit sizes, only fruit volumes and weight were measured. The number of seeds in each fruit was also counted. Statistical tests were carried out at 5% level of significance and the results showed that bark harvesting causes fruits to become smaller in size but the sooty mould disease does not affect the fruits in any way. Seed germination viability is neither affected by bark harvesting nor the sooty mould disease.

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