

MOUNTAIN KAREE-RHUS

Rhus leptodictya

AFRIKAANS Klipkarree, Basterkarree, Bergkarree **NORTH SOTHO** Motšhakhutšhakhu, Monhloho
TSWANA Motshotlwane **VENDA** Mushakaladza

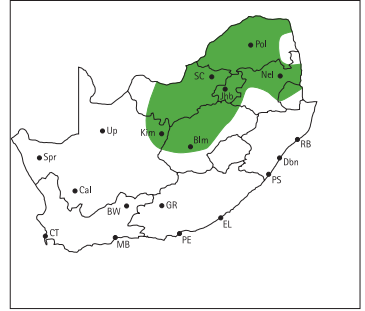
Rhus - Classical Greek name for a species of this genus (Karee, Kuni, Sumac, etc); **leptodictya** refers to the Leaves delicate net-like veins on the leaflets.

Where you'll find this tree easily

This tree is easiest to find on wooded, rocky hillsides where it grows singly among other trees.

GIFF

- This is a single- or multi-stemmed low-branching tree with a rounded canopy.
- The canopy consists of many finely divided twigs and branchlets and is soft, drooping and willow-like.
- The leaflets of the three-leaflet Compound leaves have toothed margins.
- The leaflets join the leaf-stem together at a single point, and are almost at right angles to one another.



Seasonal changes

Evergreen. This tree is easy to identify throughout the year.

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Leaf	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Flower				■	■	■	■					
Fruit/Pod						■	■	■	■			

Growth form

See GIFF.

This is a pale green tree with leaves and twigs that move easily in the wind.

Leaves

The leaves have a long leaf-stem (30 - 40 mm). The central vein stands out on both sides. The upper-surface is pale green, the under-surface is slightly paler and a fine vein pattern is clearly visible on both sides (Leaf: 110 - 150 mm; central leaflet: 40 - 120 x 10 - 35 mm).



Fruit

The small grape-like fruit is somewhat angular and flattened. It is shiny, yellow-brown when ripe, from Mar - Jun (4 - 5 mm).

Flowers

The inconspicuous, creamy, star-shaped flowers grow in dense clusters at the end of the twigs from Jan - Apr (Spray: 150 mm; individual: 3 mm).

Bark

In older trees the bark is coarse, dark brown or grey and is deeply fissured lengthways. In young branches and twigs the bark is reddish.

Look-alike tree

This tree can be confused with the Karee-rhus, *Rhus lancea*, which is seldom found in rocky areas. The margins of the leaflets of the Karee-rhus are smooth, not serrated and the leaflets are attached to the leaf-stem at an acute angle like the toes of a chicken's foot. See p. ??? for the comparison of Rhus species in the Highveld.

Gardening

This is an attractive shade tree that grows best in well-drained soil. It is frost- and drought-resistant and grows fast from seed or cuttings. It is suitable as a bonsai.

Links with animals

The leaves are eaten by antelope, cattle and goats. The fruit is eaten by birds such as bulbuls, barbets, guineafowl and francolins.

Human uses

The reddish-brown wood can be used to make small household articles. The fruit is edible and is used to brew a strong beer. The tree has medicinal properties.

MOIST, WOODED, ROCKY SLOPES
Special leaves - Mountain Karee-rhus