

MATOBO CONSERVATION SOCIETY
CHECKLIST FOR THE FLORA (TREES & SHRUBS) OF THE MATOBO HILLS



APPRECIATION

This material was prepared by the MATOBO CONSERVATION SOCIETY
from chapter 7 of the book
“THE NATURAL HISTORY OF THE MATOBO HILLS” ISBN 978-0-7974-9815-0
with the approval of the
NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF ZIMBABWE

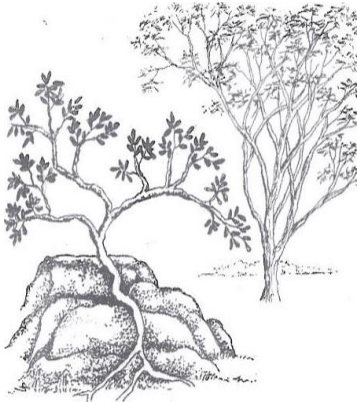
The Matobo Conservation Society, a registered Welfare organisation, is committed to the conservation, appreciation and sustainable use of the natural and cultural resources within the Matobo Hills region. For more information (a) on this checklist and (b) the book “THE NATURAL HISTORY OF THE MATOBO HILLS”, please email matoboconservationsociety@gmail.com.

INTRODUCTION

Information provided by

RG Stephens, B Drummond, K Blake, I McCausland, J Timberlake

Sketches were done by Mary Friend



The Matobo Hills covers an area of about 3,100 square kilometres, and even within such a relatively small area there is wide botanic variety. This ranges from the extreme desert conditions found on the exposed "dwalas" or whale back hills, through grassland and woodland in the broad valleys to areas of thick forest and wetlands in the high eastern hills. The hills range in altitude from 1,564m above sea level, in the north east, to 1,115m in the south west. Rainfall follows a similar pattern, with the eastern hills recording an average in excess of 800mm, and the southwest as little as 400mm. Due to the runoff from the rocks, the effective rainfall in the valleys is considerably higher. The combination of altitude and rainfall has a profound impact on the distribution of plants in general, and of trees in particular. Temperatures range from a mean summer maximum of 26.3°C to a mean winter maximum of 17°C. Frost can occur in winter, but never snow. This impacts on the growth of trees in some valleys.

MATOBO CONSERVATION SOCIETY

CHECKLIST FOR THE FLORA (TREES & SHRUBS) OF THE MATOBO HILLS

The granite gives rise to a pale coloured sand, not particularly rich, but well drained. In valleys, compost has enriched the soil, whilst vleis generally contain good soil. This checklist has all tree species to be found in the Matobo Hills. Just a glance will show the range of species, from the drought resistant Baobab (*Adonsonia digitata*) to the Common Tree Fern (*Cyathea dregei*). The eastern hills are dominated by the Mountain Msasa/Acacia (*Brachystegia tamarindoides*) whilst in the western hills the Round-leaved Mukwa (*Pterocarpus rotundifolius*) is the most common tree. There are 13 species that were first scientifically described in the Matopos, whilst the hills also represent the westernmost outlier of several plant species from the Eastern Highlands. All told, this makes the area a place of intense interest for the professional and amateur botanist alike.

LEGEND

T = Tree; TS = Tree/Shrub; S = Shrub; SS = Sub-shrub; C = Climber; P = Parasite; E = Exotic.

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Type	Your Notes
MONOCOTYLEDONS				
Asphodelaceae	<i>Aloe excelsa</i>	Aloe Excelsa	SS	
PTERIDOPHYTA				
Cyatheaceae	<i>Cyathea dregei</i>	Grassland Tree-fern	T	
DICOTYLEDONS				
Acanthaceae	<i>Barleria matopensis</i>	Matopos Barleria	SS	
	<i>Dyschoriste sp</i>		SS	
Anacardiaceae	<i>Lannea discolor</i>	Livelong	T	
	<i>L. schweinfurthii</i>	False Marula	T	
	<i>Ozoroa insignis</i>	Tarberry	TS	
	<i>O. paniculosa</i>	Bushveld Resintree	TS	
	<i>Rhus lancea</i>	Willow Rhus	T	
	<i>R. leptodictya</i>	Rock Rhus	T	
	<i>R. pyroides</i>	Fire-thorn Rhus	S	
	<i>R. tenuinervis</i>	Commiphora Rhus		
	<i>Sclerocarya birrea</i>	Marula	T	
Annonaceae	<i>Artabotrys brachypetalus</i>	Purple Hookberry	S	
	<i>Hexalobus monopetalus</i>	Baboon's Breakfast	S	
Apiaceae	<i>Heteromorpha arborescens</i>	Blue Parsnip-tree	T	
	<i>H. involucrata</i>		T	
	<i>H. stenophylla</i>		T	
	<i>Steganotaenia araliacea</i>	Popgun Tree	TS	
Apocynaceae	<i>Acokanthera oppositifolia</i>	Bushman's Arrow-poison	S	

MATOBO CONSERVATION SOCIETY
CHECKLIST FOR THE FLORA (TREES & SHRUBS) OF THE MATOBO HILLS

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Type	Your Notes
	<i>Carissa bispinosa</i>	Y-spine Numnum	S	
	<i>C. edulis</i>	Simplespine Numnum	S	
	<i>Diplorhynchus condylocarpon</i>	Rubber Tree	T	
	<i>Holarrhena pubescens</i>	Jasmine Tree	S	
Aquifoliaceae	<i>Ilex mitis</i>	African Holly	S	
Araliaceae	<i>Cussonia arborea</i>	Octopus Cabbage-tree	T	
	<i>C. natalensis</i>	Simple-leaf Cabbage-tree	T	
	<i>C. spicata</i>	Mountain Cabbage-tree	T	
Asteraceae	<i>Brachylaena rotundata</i>	Yellow Silver-oak	TS	
	<i>B. huillensis</i>	Lowveld Silver-oak	T	
	<i>Psiadia punctulata</i>	Resinleaf Yellowhead		
	<i>Tarchonanthus camphoratus</i>	Camphor Bush	S	
	<i>Vernonia colorata</i>	Starflower Vernonia	S	
Bignoniaceae	<i>Markhamia zanzibarica</i>	Bellbean	T	
	<i>Rhigozum zambesiicum</i>	Pinnate-leaf Rhigozum	S	
Bombacaceae	<i>Adansonia digitata</i>	Baobab	T	
Boraginaceae	<i>Cordia grandicalyx</i>	Largefruit Cordia	S	
	<i>Ehretia obtusifolia</i>	Hairy Puzzlebush	S	
	<i>E. rigida</i>	Puzzlebush	S	
Buddlejaceae	<i>Buddleja saligna</i>	Olive Sagewood	S	
	<i>Nuxia congesta</i>	Wild Laurustinus	T	
	<i>N. oppositifolia</i>	River Nuxia	T	
Burseraceae	<i>Commiphora africana</i>	Poisongrub Commiphora	T	
	<i>C. glandulosa</i>	Tall Firethorn Corkwood	T	
	<i>C. marlothii</i>	Paperbark Commiphora	T	
	<i>C. mollis</i>	Velvetleaf Corkwood	T	
	<i>C. mossambicensis</i>	Pepperleaf Corkwood	T	
	<i>C. schimperi</i>	Glossyleaf Corkwood	TS	
Capparaceae	<i>Boscia angustifolia</i>	Roughleaf Shepherds-tree	T	
	<i>Maerua angolensis</i>	Beadbean	TS	
Celastraceae	<i>Catha edulis</i>	Khat	TS	
	<i>Elaeodendron matabelicum</i>	Condiment Saffronwood	S	
	<i>Gymnosporia buxifolia</i>	Spikethorn	S	
	<i>G. matobensis</i>	Matobo Spikethorn	S	
	<i>G. senegalensis</i>	Confetti Spikethorn	S	
	<i>Maytenus undata</i>	Kokotree	S	

MATOBO CONSERVATION SOCIETY
CHECKLIST FOR THE FLORA (TREES & SHRUBS) OF THE MATOBO HILLS

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Type	Your Notes
	<i>Mystroxylon aethiopicum</i>	Kooboo-berry	TS	
Chrysobalanaceae	<i>Parinari curatellifolia</i>	Mobola Plum	T	
Combretaceae	<i>Combretum apiculatum</i>	Glossy Combretum	T	
	<i>C. collinum</i>	Variable Combretum	T	
	<i>C. erythrophyllum</i>	River Combretum	T	
	<i>C. hereroense</i>	Mouse-ear Combretum	TS	
	<i>C. imberbe</i>	Leadwood	T	
	<i>C. molle</i>	Velvet Combretum	T	
	<i>C. zeyheri</i>	Largefruit Combretum	T	
	<i>Terminalia brachystemma</i>	Kalahari-sand Terminalia	T	
	<i>T. randii</i>	Spiny Terminalia	S	
	<i>T. sericea</i>	Mangwe (Assegai Tree)	TS	
	<i>T. stuhlmannii</i>	Zigzag Terminalia	T	
	<i>T. trichopoda</i>	Tawny Terminalia	T	
Ebenaceae	<i>Diospyros kirkii</i>	Pink Diospyros	T	
	<i>D. lycioides</i>	Red Star-apple	S	
	<i>D. mespiliformis</i>	Jackalberry	T	
	<i>Euclea crispa</i>	Blue Guarri	S	
	<i>E. divinorum</i>	Diamondleaf Guarri	S	
	<i>E. natalensis</i>	Hairy-leaf Guarri	S	
	<i>E. schimperi</i>	River Guarri	S	
	<i>E. undulata</i>	Small-leaf Guarri	S	
Erythroxylaceae	<i>Erythroxylum emarginatum</i>	African Coca-tree	S	
Euphorbiaceae	<i>Acalypha pubiflora</i>	Limpopo Acalypha	S	
	<i>Antidesma venosum</i>	Tasselberry	S	
	<i>Bridelia mollis</i>	Velvet Bridelia	TS	
	<i>Croton gratissimus</i>	Lavender Croton	TS	
	<i>Erythrococca trichogyne</i>	Twin Redberry	S	
	<i>Euphorbia confinalis</i>	Confinalis	S	
	<i>E. cooperi</i>	Lesser Candelabra-tree	TS	
	<i>E. espinosa</i>	Paperbark Euphorbia	S	
	<i>E. griseola</i>	Granite Euphorbia	SS	
	<i>E. ingens</i>	Candelabra Tree	T	
	<i>E. matabelensis</i>	Threefork Euphorbia	TS	
	<i>E. tirucalli</i>	Rubberhedge	TS	
	<i>Flueggea virosa</i>	Snowberry	S	
	<i>Margaritaria discoidea</i>	Peacockberry	S	
	<i>Pseudolachnostylis maprouneifolia</i>	Duikerberry	T	

MATOBO CONSERVATION SOCIETY
CHECKLIST FOR THE FLORA (TREES & SHRUBS) OF THE MATOBO HILLS

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Type	Your Notes
Fabaceae:	<i>Afzelia quanzensis</i>	Mukamba	T	
Caesalpinioideae				
	<i>Bauhinia galpinii</i>	Pride-of-the-Cape	S	
	<i>Brachystegia boehmii</i>	Mufuti	T	
	<i>B. spiciformis</i>	Msasa	T	
	<i>B. tamarindoides</i>	Mountain Msasa	T	
	<i>B. utilis</i>	False mfuti	T	
	<i>Burkea africana</i>	Mukarati	T	
	<i>Cassia abbreviata</i>	Longpod	T	
	<i>Colophospermum mopane</i>	Mopane	T	
	<i>Julbernardia globiflora</i>	Munondo	T	
	<i>Peltophorum africanum</i>	African wattle	T	
	<i>Piliostigma thonningii</i>	Monkeybread	T	
	<i>Pterolobium stellatum</i>	Redwing	C	
Fabaceae:	<i>Senegalia ataxacantha</i>	Flame Acacia	S	
Mimosoideae				
	<i>S. cinerea</i>	Bladethorn	TS	
	<i>S. galpinii</i>	Monkeythorn	T	
	<i>S. hereroensis</i>	Redthorn Acacia	T	
	<i>S. mellifera ssp detinens</i>	Blackthorn Acacia	TS	
	<i>S. nigrescens</i>	Knobthorn	T	
	<i>S. schweinfurthii</i>	River Climbing-acacia	SC	
	<i>Vachellia gerrardii ssp gerrardii</i>	Greyhaired Acacia	T	
	<i>V. karroo</i>	Sweet Thorn	TS	
	<i>V. nilotica</i>	Scented-pod Acacia	T	
	<i>V. rehmanniana</i>	Silky Acacia	TS	
	<i>V. robusta</i>	Robust Acacia	T	
	<i>V. sieberiana</i>	Paperbark Acacia	T	
	<i>V. tortilis</i>	Umbrellathorn	T	
	<i>Albizia amara</i>	Bitter Albizia	T	
	<i>A. antunesiana</i>	Purpleleaf Albizia	T	
	<i>A. harveyi</i>	Sickleleaf Albizia	T	
	<i>A. tanganyicensis</i>	Paperbark Albizia	T	
	<i>A. versicolor</i>	Poisonpod Albizia	T	
	<i>Dichrostachys cinerea</i>	Chinese Lanterns	S	
	<i>Elephantorrhiza burkei</i>	Broadpod Elephant-root	S	
	<i>E. elephantina</i>	Dwarf Elephant-root	SS	
	<i>E. goetzei</i>	Elephant-root	S	

MATOBO CONSERVATION SOCIETY
CHECKLIST FOR THE FLORA (TREES & SHRUBS) OF THE MATOBO HILLS

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Type	Your Notes
Fabaceae: Papilionoideae	<i>Bolusanthus speciosus</i>	Tree Wisteria	T	
	<i>Crotalaria microcarpa</i>	Smallfruit Rattlepod	SS	
	<i>Dalbergia melanoxylon</i>	African Blackwood	TS	
	<i>Erythrina latissima</i>	Broadleaf Lucky-bean	T	
	<i>E. lysistemon</i>	Eastern Districts Lucky-bean	T	
	<i>Mundulea sericea</i>	Corkbush	TS	
	<i>Ormocarpum trichocarpum</i>	Hairy Caterpillarpod	S	
	<i>Philenoptera violacea</i>	Rain Tree	T	
	<i>Pterocarpus angolensis</i>	Mukwa	T	
	<i>P. rotundifolius</i>	Roundleaf Bloodwood	T	
	<i>Sesbania sesban</i>	Sesban	SS	
	Flacourtiaceae	<i>Dovyalis caffra</i>	Kei Apple	S
<i>D. zeyheri</i>		Oval Kei-apple	S	
<i>Flacourtia indica</i>		Governor's Plum	S	
<i>Homalium dentatum</i>		Brown Ironwood	T	
Ulmaceae	<i>Apodytes dimidiata</i>	White Pear	TS	
Lamiaceae	<i>Tetradenia brevispicata</i>	Small Gingerbush	S	
	<i>Vitex payos</i>	Chocolate Berry	TS	
Loganiaceae	<i>Strychnos cocculoides</i>	Corky-bark Monkey-orange	T	
	<i>S. madagascariensis</i>	Shinyleaf Monkey-orange	T	
	<i>S. matopensis</i>	Matobo Bitterberry	TS	
	<i>S. potatorum</i>	Grape Bitterberry	T	
	<i>S. spinosa</i>	Spiny Monkey-orange	T	
	<i>Strychnos usambarensis</i>	Stipefruit Bitterberry		
Loranthaceae	<i>Agelanthus (Loranthus) fuellebornii</i>		P	
	<i>A. (Loranthus) pungu</i>		P	
	<i>Erianthemum (Loranthus) ngamicum</i>		P	
	<i>Plicosepalus (Loranthus) kalachariensis</i>	Acacia Mistletoe	P	
	<i>Tapinanthus</i>	Matches	P	
Malpighiaceae	<i>Sphedamnocarpus pruriens</i>	Canary Nettle	S	
	<i>Triaspis dumeticola</i>		S	
Malvaceae	<i>Abutilon pycnodon</i>	Bellflower	SS	
	<i>Azanza garckeana</i>	Snot Apple	TS	
	<i>Hibiscus mutatus</i>		SS	

MATOBO CONSERVATION SOCIETY
CHECKLIST FOR THE FLORA (TREES & SHRUBS) OF THE MATOBO HILLS

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Type	Your Notes
	<i>H. subreniformis</i>		SS	
Meliaceae	<i>Entandrophragma caudatum</i>	Wooden Banana	T	
	<i>Turraea fischeri</i>	Matobo Honeysuckle Tree	S	
	<i>T. floribunda</i>	Honeysuckle Tree	S	
	<i>T. nilotica</i>	Miombo Honeysuckle Tree	S	
	<i>T. obtusifolia</i>	Small Honeysuckle Tree	S	
Moraceae	<i>Ficus abutilifolia</i>	Largeleaf Rock Fig	T	
	<i>F. burkei</i>	Common Wild Fig	T	
	<i>F. glumosa</i>	Hairy Rock-fig	T	
	<i>F. ingens</i>	Redleaf Fig	T	
	<i>F. natalensis</i>	Graniteboulder Fig	T	
	<i>F. salicifolia</i>	Wonderboom Fig	T	
	<i>F. sur</i>	Broomcluster Fig	T	
	<i>F. sansibarica</i>	Knobbly Fig	T	
	<i>F. sycomorus</i>	Sycamore Fig		
	<i>F. tettensis</i>	Small-leaf Rock-fig	T	
	<i>F. verruculosa</i>	Water Fig	T	
Myricaceae	<i>Morella pilulifera</i>	Broadleaf Waxberry	S	
Myrothamnaceae	<i>Myrothamnus flabellifolius</i>	Resurrection Plant	SS	
Myrsinaceae	<i>Myrsine africana</i>	Myrsine	S	
Myrtaceae	<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>	Yellowbox	ET	
	<i>E. tereticornis</i>	Forest Redgum	ET	
	<i>Heteropyxis dehniae</i>	Lavender Tree	T	
Ochnaceae	<i>Ochna glauca</i>	Blue Ochna	S	
	<i>O. holstii</i>	Forest Ochna	TS	
	<i>O. inermis</i>	Boatfruit Ochna	S	
	<i>O. puberula</i>	Granite Ochna	S	
	<i>O. pulchra</i>	Peelingbark Ochna	T	
	<i>O. schweinfurthiana</i>	Brickred Ochna	T	
Olacaceae	<i>Olax dissitiflora</i>	Smallfruit Olax	TS	
	<i>Ximenia americana</i>	Blue Sourplum	S	
	<i>X. caffra</i>	Sourplum	TS	
Oleaceae	<i>Chionanthus battiscombei</i>	River Pock-ironwood	TS	
	<i>Olea europaea</i>	African Olive	TS	
	<i>Schrebera alata</i>	Wingleaf Woodenpear	T	
Oliniaceae	<i>Olinia vaugerioides</i>	Hardpear	T	
Passifloraceae	<i>Adenia digitata</i>	Wild Granadilla	S	

MATOBO CONSERVATION SOCIETY
CHECKLIST FOR THE FLORA (TREES & SHRUBS) OF THE MATOBO HILLS

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Type	Your Notes
Pittosporaceae	<i>Pittosporum viridiflorum</i>	Cheesewood	TS	
Polygalaceae	<i>Securidaca longepedunculata</i>	Violet Tree	T	
Proteaceae	<i>Faurea saligna</i>	Willowleaf Beechwood	T	
	<i>Protea gaguedi</i>	African Protea	S	
Ptaeroxylaceae	<i>Ptaeroxylon obliquum</i>	Sneezewood	TS	
Rhamnaceae	<i>Berchemia discolor</i>	Bird Plum	T	
	<i>B. zeyheri</i>	Red Ivory	T	
	<i>Ziziphus mucronata</i>	Buffalo Thorn	T	
Rubiaceae	<i>Canthium lactescens</i>	Gummy Turkeyberry	S	
	<i>Catunaregam</i>	Thicket Thorn	S	
	<i>Crossopteryx febrifuga</i>	Crystalbark	T	
	<i>Gardenia resiniflua</i>	Gummy Gardenia	S	
	<i>G. volkensii</i>	Ribbed-fruit Gardenia	S	
	<i>Pavetta eylesii</i>	Flakybark Bridesbush	TS	
	<i>P. gardeniifolia</i>	Stink-leaf Brides Bush	TS	
	<i>P. schumanniana</i>	Poison Bridesbush	S	
	<i>Psydrax livida</i>	Greentwigs	S	
	<i>Sericanthe andongensis</i>	Venda Coffee	S	
	<i>Tapiphyllum velutinum</i>	Velvetleaf	S	
	<i>Tarenna neurophylla</i>	Kopje Butterspoon	S	
	<i>T. zimbabwensis</i>	Butterspoon	S	
	<i>Vangueria infausta</i>	Velvetleaf Vangueria	TS	
	<i>V. randii ssp randii</i>	Antheap Vangueria	S	
Rutaceae	<i>Calodendrum capense</i>	Cape Chestnut	T	
	<i>Teclea rogersii</i>	Valley Cherryorange	S	
	<i>Vepris reflexa</i>	Drooping White-ironwood	S	
	<i>V. zambesiaca</i>	Mopane White-ironwood	S	
	<i>Zanthoxylum capense</i>	Small Knobwood	S	
	<i>Z. chalybeum</i>	Knobwood	S	
Salicaceae	<i>Salix mucronata</i>	Wild Willow	TS	
Santalaceae	<i>Osyris lanceolata</i>	Tanninbush	S	
Sapindaceae	<i>Allophylus africanus</i>	African Allophylus	S	
	<i>A. rubifolius var rubifolius</i>	Lowveld Allophylus	S	
	<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>	Sand Olive	S	
	<i>Erythrophysa transvaalensis</i>	Red Balloon	S	
	<i>Pappea capensis</i>	Indaba Tree	T	

MATOBO CONSERVATION SOCIETY
CHECKLIST FOR THE FLORA (TREES & SHRUBS) OF THE MATOBO HILLS

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Type	Your Notes
Sapotaceae	<i>Englerophyton magalimontanum</i>	Stemfruit	T	
	<i>Mimusops zeyheri</i>	Red Milkwood	T	
Scrophulariaceae	<i>Antherothamnus pearsonii</i>		S	
	<i>Halleria lucida</i>	Tree Fuchsia	S	
Simbaroubaceae	<i>Kirkia acuminata</i>	Umvumila	T	
Solanaceae	<i>Solanum tettense</i>		SS	
Sterculiaceae	<i>Dombeya rotundifolia</i>	Wild Pear	TS	
	<i>Sterculia africana</i>	Tick Tree	T	
Tiliaceae	<i>Grewia bicolor</i>	Whiteleaf Grewia	S	
	<i>G. flava</i>	Brandybush Grewia	S	
	<i>G. flavescens</i>	Squarestem Grewia	S	
	<i>G. monticola</i>	Grey Grewia	S	
	<i>G. villosa</i>	Roundleaf Grewia	S	
Thymelaeaceae	<i>Dais cotinifolia</i>	Pompon Tree	SS	
Ulmaceae	<i>Celtis africana</i>	White Stinkwood	T	
	<i>Trema orientalis</i>	Pigeonwood	TS	
Urticaceae	<i>Obetia tenax</i>	Tree Nettle	S	
	<i>Pouzolzia mixta</i>	Soap Nettle	TS	
Verbenaceae	<i>Clerodendrum eriophyllum</i>	White Cat's-whiskers	S	
	<i>Lantana camara</i>	Lantana	ES	Invasive
	<i>Lippia javanica</i>	Lippie	S	
	<i>Rothea myricoides</i>	Roughleaf Cat's-whiskers	S	
	<i>R. wildii</i>	Smoothleaf Cat's-whiskers	S	
Viscaceae (Mistletoes)	<i>Viscum combreticola</i>		P	
	<i>V. menyharthii</i>		P	
	<i>V. rotundifolium</i>		P	
	<i>V. tuberculatum</i>		P	
	<i>V. verrucosum</i>		P	
Vitaceae	<i>Cissus cornifolia</i>	Black Wild Grape	SS	
	<i>Rhoicissus tridentata</i>	Bushman's Grape	SS	