



Adansonia grandidieri
THE BAOBAB TREE

The Upside Down Tree

This unusual tree is endemic to the island of Madagascar, where it is threatened by the encroachment of agricultural land.

There are eight species of baobabs, six of which are in Madagascar.

Some Common names:

- Grandidier's Baobab
- Baobab Tree
- Bottle Tree
- Upside Down Tree



- Average mature height is about 82 feet.
- Trunk width of about 10 feet, can get much wider.
- Tallest recorded Baobab tree was about 98 feet tall and had a trunk diameter of 36 feet!
- The trunks become so fat partly because they can HOLD WATER!
- As much as 1000 gallons of water have been tapped from one trunk!



BARK = CALCIUM AND ROPE!

The tree has reddish grey bark that can grow up to 15cm thick.

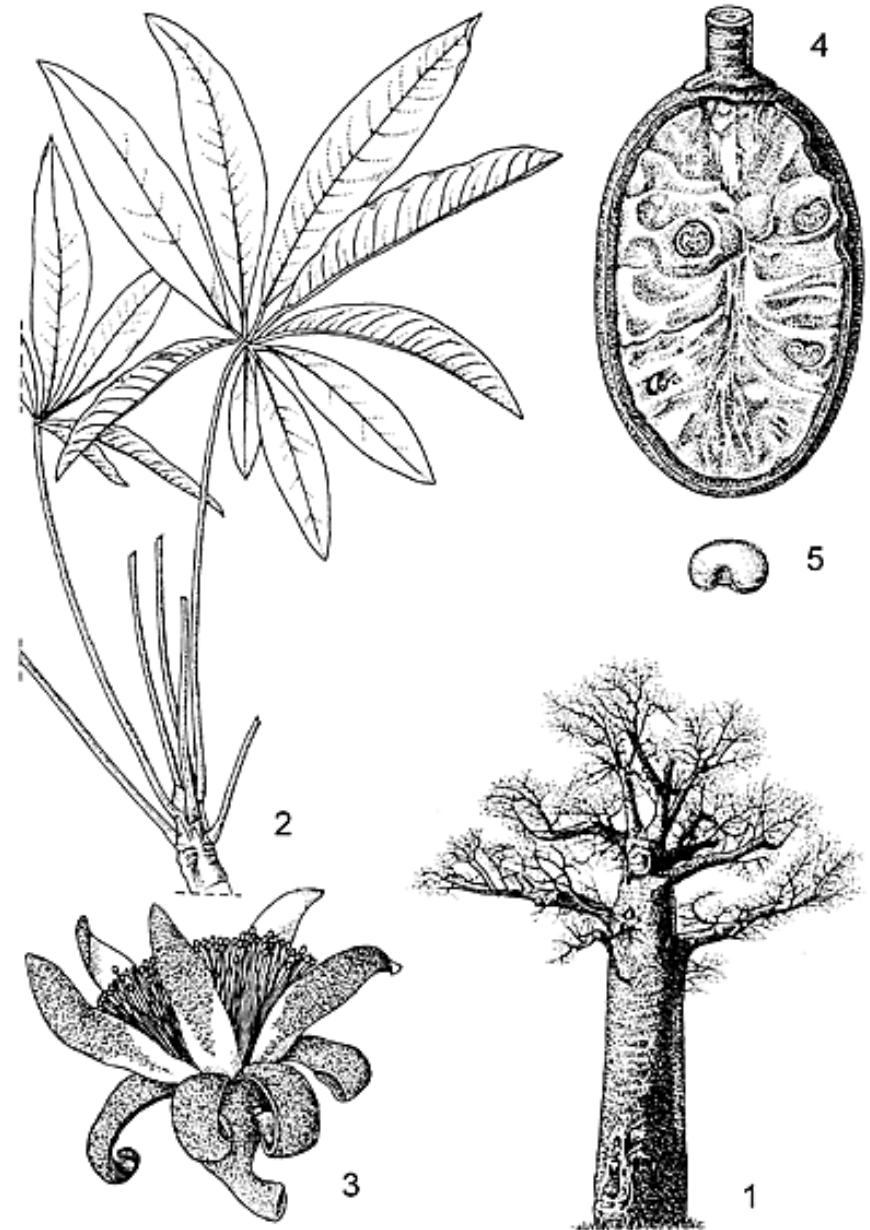
The outer bark can be removed and broken into small pieces and sold as a calcium-rich medicine.

It can also be stripped, dried and then sold as rope or as sheets for making rope.



EDIBLE LEAVES!!

- The baobab tree is deciduous.
- At certain times of the year the flat topped crowns bear bluish-green palmate leaves, dark floral buds or spectacular flowers with white to yellow petals.
- In Fall the leaves will slowly begin to fall. By end of December the tree will be completely dormant and the bare branches look like roots...the upside down tree.
- The leaves can be eaten like spinach!



FLOWERS

- The flowers are white and turn to yellow with age.



FRUIT & SEEDS!

- Melon size edible fruits.
- The large, dry fruits of baobab contain kidney-shaped seeds within an edible pulp.
- The fruits are collected in late November and juice is made for local consumption.
- Seeds are collected and eaten with rice.



