



WOMAN'S TONGUE TREE

(*Albizia lebbek*)

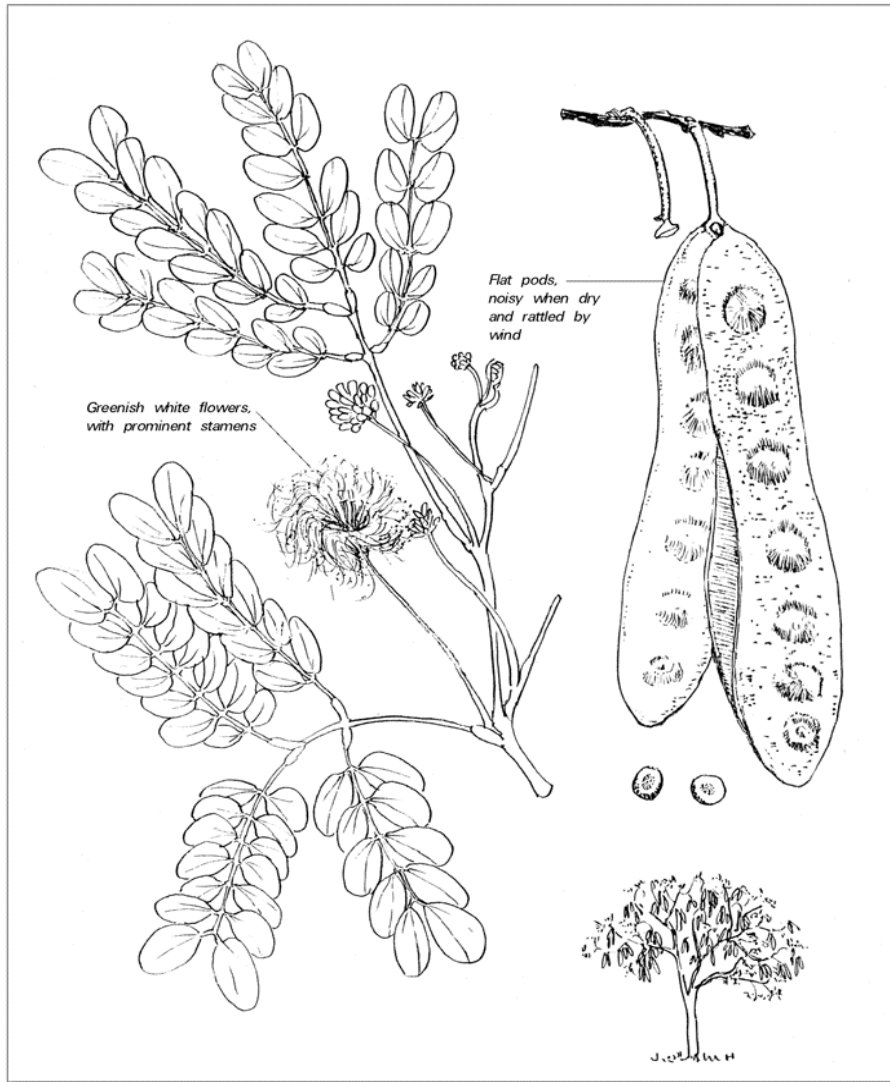
This tree is found in India and other eastern countries where it is called East Indian walnut or the siris tree. Woman's tongue is a native of Asia and Africa and its common name probably comes from the sound of the wind rattling the thin, dry, straw-coloured pods which are its fruits.

This adaptable tree belongs to the Leguminosae family and small structures on the root called nodules enrich the soil with nitrogen as they contain nitrogen fixing bacteria. It is a good soil binder and can be used for reforesting dry soils. It thrives in many types of soil but prefers moist, well-drained loam. Woman's tongue can grow to a height of 30 m.

Its leaves are compound and deciduous and its flowers are fragrant and greenish-white in colour. For a part of each year it is entirely leafless. The leaves make good fodder for livestock and in some countries the leaves are used as green manure. The sizes of the pods range from 15-30 cm in length. When the leaves and the pods of this tree fall to the ground a lot of litter is created further enriching the soil. The wood is used for fuelwood.

WOMAN'S TONGUE TREE (*Albizia lebbek*)

Family: Mimosaceae	Species: <i>Albizia lebbek</i>	Author: (L.) Benth.
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Height: 30m	Habitat: Sea level-800m	Persistence: Deciduous
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