



Flowering Trees

Adansonia digitata L. (The Baobab-Tree) of Bombacaceae is a tree with swollen trunk that attains a dia. of 10m. Leaves are digitately compound with leaflets up to 18cm. long. Flowers are large, solitary, waxy white, and open at dusk. They open in 30 seconds and are bat pollinated. Stamens are many. Fruit is about 30 cm long and indehiscent. Seed dispersal is by mammals. Wood lacks growth rings.

This species lives up to 5000 years. According to Humboldt, it is “a tree of a thousand years”, “the oldest organic monument of our planet”. A 600-year old specimen at Bijapur has been declared as a Heritage Tree.