No. 189: *Acacia xanthophloeoa*
**Family:** Fabaceae (Legume Family)
**Common names:** fever tree (Z), koosboom (A), mooi-kwena (N. So.), umhlosinga (Z), nkela (N. So.), muzhalela (V)

- Tall, attractive, fast-growing garden tree, up to 25 m high
- Smooth, lime-green to yellow trunk
- Reathery compound leaves, light green; sparingly foliated
- Straight, white thorns in pairs
- Clusters of yellow, scented flowers
- Pods thick, with hard seeds
- Root nodules enrich the soil
- Can survive hot and dry conditions
- Easily propagated from seed and makes a good bonsai tree

No. 131: *Cladostemon kirkii*
**Family:** Capparaceae (Caper Family)
**Common names:** three-finger bush, butterfly tree (E), Tonga-kierie (E & A); umThek-wini, umMusi-iyamuka, uPhanda, isiluntu (Z)

- Large shrub or small tree, grows up to 6 m high, deciduous
- Bark yellow-grey-brown, with narrow fissures
- Leaves divided into three leaflets
- Striking white, sweetly scented flowers with pink veins, carried on spikes
- Calabash-shaped fruit with rough skin and unpleasant smell; avoid contact
- Easily grown from seed or cuttings

No. 693: *Rothmannia capensis*
**Family:** Rubiaceae (Coffee Family)
**Common names:** wild gardenia, common rothmannia (E), wildekattjiepiering (A); Modugatshwene (N. So.); Mukubudu (V.); umPhazinge-mkhulu (Z); ibolo (O)

- Attractive evergreen tree or large shrub with dense crown and noninvasive roots
- Suitable for small gardens
- Glossy green leaves
- Old bark cracked like crocodile skin
- Large bell-shaped flowers, creamy white and strongly scented
- Fruit round and hard (7 cm diameter), green, turning brown, with flat seeds in pulp
- Easily propagated from seed

**Distributed free of charge by the Southern African National Biodiversity Institute. Available for download on www.sabio.org**

**Photographs:** Eddie Blackey, Geoff Williams, Brian and Justine Hooke
**BRIZA**
**Gandhi**
**trees of the year 2010**
No. 693: *Rothmannia capensis*

**Family:** RUBIACEAE (Coffee Family)
**Common names:** wild gardenia, common rothmannia (E); wildekatjie-piering (A); Modulatshwene (N. So.); Mukubudu (Iv); umPhazane-mikhulu (Z); iBola (X)

**General appearance**
- Evergreen tree or large shrub, with dense crown.
- Glossy green leaves with domatia (swollen areas) in the axils of veins.
- Young leaves and twigs sometimes velvety-hairy.
- Old bark cracked like crocodile skin.

**Flowering in summer**
- Large, bell-shaped flowers, creamy white and strongly scented.

**Flowering in summer**
- Fruit round and hard (golf-ball-sized), green, turning brown. Contain flat seeds in a pulp.

**Where it occurs**
- Cape Peninsula up the east coast to Mpumalanga and into Limpopo.
- Coastal and evergreen forest, kloofs and rocky ridges.

**Meaning of the name**
- Rothmannia—in honour of Dr Georgius Rothman (1739-177B), pupil of the famous Swedish botanist Linnaeus.
- capensis—from the Cape.

**Ecology and uses**
- Bees, monkeys, bushpigs and grey louries eat the fruit.
- Strong, hard wood used for household utensils such as cooking spoons. Also good firewood.
- Powdered roots used to treat leprosy and rheumatism.
- Juice from the fruit applied to wounds.

**As a garden tree**
- Suitable for small gardens, as the roots are non-invasive.
- Resistant to frost and does not need much water.
- Easily propagated by seed. Remove seeds from the pulp.
- Does well in sun as well as semi-shade.

---

No. 131: *Cladostemon kirkii*

**Family:** CAPPARACEAE (Caper Family)
**Common names:** three-finger bush, butterfly tree (E); Tongakienie (E & A); umThekwini, uMusyi-yamuka, uPhande, isisDumbu (Z)

**General appearance**
- Large shrub or small tree up to 6 m, deciduous.
- Bark yellow-grey-brown, with narrow fissures.
- Leaves divided into three leaflets.
- Striking, sweetly scented, white flowers with pink veins, carried in spikes.
- Fleshy, round fruit with rough skin and strong smell.

**Where it occurs**
- Widespread in tropical Africa.
- In South Africa found in northern KwaZulu-Natal and then northwards through Mozambique.
- Grows in dry lowland forest and woodland in frost-free areas only.

**Meaning of the name**
- Cladostemon derived from the Greek klados — branch and stemon — stamen.
- kirkii—after Sir John Kirk who made the first collection from Mozambique.

**Ecology and uses**
- Fallen fruit and roots eaten by bushpigs.
- Flowers pollinated by bees or moths at night.
- Plants are used for ceremonial or medicinal purposes.
- Wood is brittle and not very useful.

**As a garden tree**
- Not commonly planted in small gardens because of the smell of the fruit.
- Plant in a secluded corner away from the house.
- Is frost sensitive.
- Fruits should not be touched, to prevent contamination with the smell.
- Easily grown from seed or cuttings.

---

No. 189: *Acacia xanthophloea*

**Family:** FABACEAE (Legume Family)
**Common names:** fever tree (E), koorsboom (A), mooka-kwena (N. So.), umHloisina (Z), nkwenqwa (Ts), muzhelelana (V)

**General appearance**
- Tall (25 m), attractive, fast-growing tree with distinct smooth, lime-green to yellow trunk.
- Sparsely foliated.
- Leaves feathery compound, light green.
- Straight, white thorns arranged in pairs.
- Yellow, scented flowers carried in clusters (Sep.–Nov.).
- Pods thick, splitting open to reveal hard seeds (Jan.–Apr.).

**Where it occurs**
- River banks, depressions, pans, swamps and moist areas from the eastern parts of KwaZulu-Natal to Kenya.
- Now occurs widely in frost-free areas in South Africa, due to being commonly planted as a garden and street tree.

**Meaning of the name**
- Acacia—refers to thorns (Greek akia = thorn).
- xanthophloea—from the Greek words xanthos = yellow and phloios = bark.
- Swamps places where fever trees grow are ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes, which carry malaria and fever-causing fever.

**Ecology and uses**
- Insects, especially bees, visit the flowers.
- Animals eat the pods, leaves and flowers.
- Thorns provide protection for nesting birds.
- Bark is used medicinally against fever.
- Wood is hard and durable, but cracks easily.
- Bark is used against fever and eye complaints.

**As a garden tree**
- Popular in large gardens, adding attractive features.
- Grows fast and ideal for a start-up garden.
- Root nodules fix nitrogen, enriching the soil.
- Can survive hot and dry conditions.
- Easy to propagate from seeds soaked in hot water.
- Tolerates mild frost.
- Well suited for bonsai specimens.