

Key to woody Fabaceae of Bicuar (as of specimens seen in and around plots)

Fabaceae (or Leguminosae) are a dominant component of the vegetation in Bicuar. They are easy to recognise down to family due to the presence of stipules (sometimes caducous, but will leave a small scar at the base of the leaf) and a cylindrical pulvinus. Leaves in our genera are always alternate. These can be simple or compound. There are 16 genera that have been collected so far in or near the plots. Identification down to genus is relatively easy, and because most genera only have 1 species, it is therefore straightforward to get to species level. For the genera that have several species, such as *Pterocarpus*, *Baphia* or *Brachystegia*, the species are very different from one another and should be easy to identify. A key to those genera is provided at the end of the main key.

1-	Plants spiny or prickly	16
1'-	Plants unarmed	2
2-	Leaves simple (or sometimes with small remnants of leaflets near the base)	3
2'-	Leaves compound	5
3-	Leaves with two pronounced lobes, resembling a camel's hoof	<i>Piliostigma thonningii</i>
3'-	Leaves without two pronounced lobes	4
4-	Leaves with two minutes stipels at the base of the leaflet, sometimes with 2 extract leaflets	<i>Lonchocarpus nelsii</i>
4'-	Leaves without stipels or extra leaflets	<i>Baphia</i>
5-	Leaves bifoliolate	<i>Guibourtia coleosperma</i>
5'-	Leaves pinnate	6
6-	Leaves 1 pinnate	7
6'-	Leaves 2 pinnate	14
7-	Leaves paripinnate (usually 2 at the end)	8
7'-	Leaves imparipinnate (usually 1 at the end)	10
8-	Leaves blueish green, petiolules distinct, up to 4 mm, petiole and rachis bright yellow, mature bark flaking to reveal cream coloured underbark	<i>Baikiaea plurijuga</i>
8'-	Leaves not blueish green, petiolules small, less than 1 mm, petioles not bright yellow, mature bark flaking but not revealing cream coloured underside	9
9-	Margins of leaflets with white hairs, petiole and rachis cylindrical, slightly greyish, leaflets usually in 3 or 4 pairs, bark flaking in small brownish squares	<i>Julbernardia paniculata</i>

9'-	Margins of leaflets without white hairs, petiole and rachis either cylindrical or grooved, sometimes with raised remnant stipels, usually yellowish green, leaflets 2-many, bark usually flaking or peeling in greyish parts	<i>Brachystegia</i>
10-	Leaflets rounded	11
10'-	Leaflets elliptical to lanceolate.....	12
11-	Bark exudes a red sap	<i>Pterocarpus</i>
11'-	Bark doesn't exude a red sap	<i>Dalbergia nitidula</i>
12-	Leaflets at least 5x as long as wide, pointy tips	<i>Mundulea sericea</i>
12'-	Leaflets less than 4x as long as wide, rounded or retuse tips	13
13-	Stipules long and thin. Old bark rough and fissured	<i>Bobgunnia madagascariensis</i>
13'-	Stipules early caducous, small and rarely seen. Old bark smooth and peeling	<i>Pericopsis angolensis</i>
14-	Leaflets opposite, dark green above, whiteish below	<i>Albizia antunesiana</i>
14'-	Leaflets alternate, same colour above and below	15
15-	Buds covered in red rusty hairs	<i>Burkea africana</i>
15'-	Buds without rusty hairs	<i>Erythrophleum africanum</i>
16-	Plants with prickles only, including on the underside of the leaves	<i>Senegalia ataxacantha</i>
16'-	Plants with spines only, usually paired at the base of the leaf or from modified shoots ...	<i>Dichostachys cinerea</i>

***Brachystegia* Benth.**

A genus of roughly 30 species only found in Africa. In Angola, there are 12 species recorded, the most abundant being *Brachystegia spiciformis*, which is hugely morphologically variable. It is important to look at several leaves, ideally from different branches, to absorb the variability present within an individual. In Bicular I have only seen 4 species, although some trees in the northern edge of the park seemed to be yet another species, perhaps *B. tamarindoides*.

1-	Leaflets in 2-5 pairs	2
1'-	Leaflets in 4-many pairs	3
2-	Leaflets small, 2-4 cm long, in 2-3 pairs, blueish green, with a grooved rachis and remnant stipels	<i>Brachystegia bakeriana</i>
2'-	Leaflets large 4-9 cm long, in 2-4 pairs, green, with a cylindrical rachis and no remnant stipels	<i>Brachystegia floribunda</i>

3- Leaflets in 4-12 pairs, green, widely spaced, with grooved rachis and remnant stipels, dominant across Bicular *Brachystegia spiciformis*
 3' Leaflets more than 12 pairs, dark green, tightly spaced, with cylindrical rachis and no remnant stipels, only found in the north of Bicular *Brachystegia boehmii*

***Baphia* Afzel. ex G.Lodd.**

A genus of about 50 species only found in Africa. In Angola there are 11 species recorded. The two species in Bicular are very different from one another and cannot be confused.

Petiole longer than 2 cm *Baphia bequerti*
 Petiole shorter than 1cm *Baphia massaiensis*

***Pterocarpus* Jacq.**

A pantropical genus of about 35 species which originated about 12Mya (see biogeographical review by [Schley](#)). In Angola, there are 5 species.

1- Plants usually multi-stemmed and growing in thickets. Leaflets less than 4cm long *Pterocarpus lucens*
 1'- Plants usually with 1-3 stems and growing in miombo. Leaflets longer than 4 cm 2
 2- Leaflets 10-many, up to 5 cm long *Pterocarpus angolensis*
 2'- Leaflets up to 10, up to 10 cm long *Pterocarpus rotundifolius*