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Gigasiphon macrosiphon (Harms) Brenan

Family: Fabaceae (previously Caesalpinoideae)

The first scientific description of the tree was in 1915. It was feared extinct in the wild until 1990.

Critically endangered IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and has placed it among the first 100 priority species for conservation in the world.

The sweet scented flower when pressed open is 20cm in diameter with four white petals and the fifth petal yellow, shading to pink at the base. A long floral tube (over 15 cm) connects the flower to the stem

Gigasiphon macrosiphon derives its name from the Latin words giga and macro, which mean large, probably referring to the large fruits and flowers of the tree. Siphon means tube — the more than 15cm long tube that attaches the flower to the plant.

Propagation seed and semi hardwood cuttings. The tough, indehiscent seed pod contains two seeds and they appear to be adapted for drifting in water.

Only about 33 individuals were found in surveys in 2013. A cultivated specimen is also kept at the Nairobi Botanic Garden. A few propagated trees are growing in Kilifi region.

