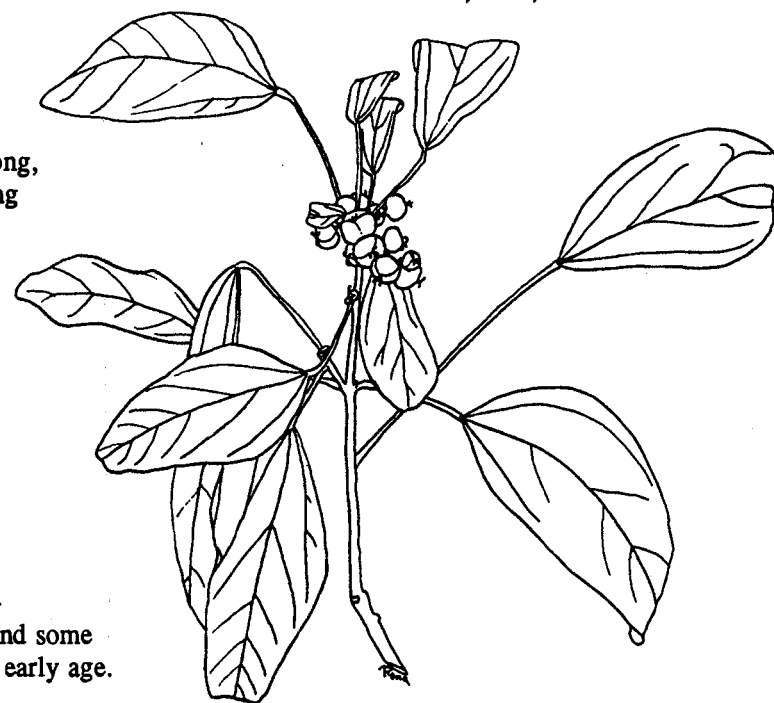


## *Mallotus philippensis*

(Euphorbiaceae)

*Mallotus philippensis*



5 cm

- Common name:** Red kamala.
- Localities:** Widespread and common through the district, in areas which were previously rainforest - eg Kholo Creek, Rafting Ground.
- Growth form:** A shrub or small tree, the male and female flowers on different trees.
- Foliage:** Leaves are simple and the blades are borne on long, slender petioles. The blades are up to 20 cm long and pale grey-green on the under-surface, which is covered with numerous minute red dots.
- Flowers and fruit:** Flowers are small, in short axillary racemes and are followed by 3-lobed fruit which are covered with a powdery red substance.
- Habitat:** Occurs in or near subtropical or dry rainforest and in regrowth. Red kamala is the most abundant natural pioneer species in our district.
- Propagation and Management:** Seed is completely non-viable within a few weeks of collection and even fresh seed does not always germinate reliably. It is a fairly fast-growing species, but is tolerant of low fertility and some moisture stress; it is tolerant of full sun from an early age.
- General:** White (or yellow) kamala (*M. discolor*) and green kamala (*M. claoxyloides*) also occur in the district. The former is considered to be the most attractive of the three species; the latter is responsible for the familiar scrub smell. The red powder from the fruits of red kamala is important as a dye and as a traditional medicine in India.