

take ripe fruit from a branch and fly with it to be eaten at another place, the same place being used many times. Loquats and mulberries ^{are} treated in the same fashion.

Many ^{such bats} collect to feed in any one fruit-bearing fig tree. Their perpetual metallic pinging sounds ^{is} often distracting to town residents in whose gardens wild figs grow.

Will sleep in daylight in the trees, for instance in the fine row of wild figs outside the Kaffirraian Museum and public offices in Alexandra Road, King William's Town. In the 1950's and 1960's.

If knocked to the ground by passers-by, these bats are capable to taking flight from the ground despite their short legs and large wing-span.

An old black woman cooking food in her pot under the overhang

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Mr. Dereck Comins, botanist at Albany Museum herbarium, sent specimens of the so-called Banyan Tree in the Cape Morgan Forest, Komga district, for identification. Found to be Ficus sp. cf. F. natalensis Hitchst.

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First Tree Tops Hotel in Kenya was built into the branches of a wild fig tree. Was burnt down by the Mau-Mau. Its replacement, also Tree Tops Hotel, was built into a Cape Chestnut.

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A wild fig in a garden in Gordon Street, Grahamstown, had a measured radius from the trunk to the outside verge of the overhang of 12 metres. Could provide enough shade for six motor-cars to be parked side by side.

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10.06.1959. A large wild fig seen growing in a garden at Somerset Street, Graaff-Reinet. *Well islands. Must have been planted there.*

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Root systems of wild figs cause much trouble in towns. Grow under houses and emerge on the opposite side, often throwing up fresh shoots there. Climb up into downpipes, choking them completely.

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August (year undated). Wild figs in front of the old Post Office, Alexandra Road, King Wms Town, look as though dying back. Only in recession. Soon shoot fresh leafage.

Wild fig

Woodlands Forest on escarpment between King Williams Town and Stutterheim. August. A tall wild fig at least 18 metres tall. Others nearby growing out of crevices in rocks. Many tiny pea-sized fruits developing

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05.09.1961. An exceptionally large wild fig at Kaffirdrift, on the Great Fish River between Bathurst district and Peddie district, the latter on the Ciskei bank. The tree was on the Bathurst bank.

Alive with bird-life feeding on fruit, most birds in song. Dozens of Redwinged Starlings and Cape Glossy Starlings; 8 Tumpeter Hornbills and Knysna Louries arrived to feed; Cape White-eyes, Black-collared Barbets. As the birds tore off fruits and dropped as many as they collected, a continuous sound of falling fruits on the ground could be heard.

An old black woman cooking food in her pot under the overhang of the tree said that the farm there belonged to Mr Leonard Lloyd.

The tree itself consisted of four massive boles bearing the branches and canopy. The diameter was paced off at 58 paces, equivalent of about 55 metres. So wide was the spread of branches that some farmer had planted ~~xx~~ mealies under the overhang.

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30.08.1963. A very large wild fig tree stood on ^a the corner ~~diagonal~~ ^{village} opposite the Pig and Whistle Hovel in Bathurst village. The diameter was paced at 47 metres in one direction and 54 in the other direction.

The stout trunk stood only about 1,2 m from ground level before the eight strong lateral branches broke.

Not much leaf at this time but small green fruits were in great abundance and, despite their greenness, were being eaten by Red-winged and Black-bellied Starlings which flew in at sunrise. The fruits were still hard and tough, yet the birds swallowed them whole.

The tree was not tall, perhaps 7,5 to 9 m. Several branches had split from the main trunk and have fallen lossly.

Two Madedah Ibises slept in the tree overnight