



University of Venda

THE TRANSPLANTATION OF *Terminalia sericea* FROM THE SANDY SOIL TO THE  
CLAY WATER-LOGGED AREA IN THE NYLSVLEY NATURE RESERVE

BY

NEMAHUNGUNI N.K

11575152

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SUPERVISOR: MR MH LIGAVHA-MBELENGWA

CO-SUPERVISOR: PROF MP TSHISIKHAWE

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## ABSTRACT

*Terminalia sericea* Burch. Ex DC is a silvery blue, upright, common shrub or tree of 6 m to 9 m on average whereas individual trees may reach 23 m in height. The species belongs to the family Combretaceae. Its leaves are browsed by cattle, goats and game during the hot, dry season. A great need for it in the reserve is obvious for its nutritional and medicinal need to animals and people respectively. *Terminalia sericea* is seen to be growing and flourishing in sandy soil where there is a shortage of water in the Nylsvley Nature Reserve whereas it is not growing in clay waterlogged area. The situation seems to suggest that *T. sericea* cannot survive in clay waterlogged areas. Transplant experiment method was employed where seedlings of *T. sericea* from the sandy soil areas were uprooted and then planted in the clay waterlogged soil areas while others were planted in the sandy soil areas for control. The experimental design was repeated in different seasons to investigate if seasons have an effect on the establishment of *T. sericea* seedlings. Seedlings establishment proved favourable in early summer than early winter where all seedlings died-out. *Terminalia sericea* showed to be growing at both type of soils at first before the waterlogged area was flooded with water. Thereafter, they died out in clay soil areas which somehow showed that *T. sericea* does not survive in clay waterlogged areas.

Key words: *Terminalia sericea*, sandy soil, clay soil, waterlogged area, seedling establishment.