



# WILDFOTO

PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY | CORPORATE MEDIA | COMMUNICATIONS

PhotoMail is an occasional picture newsletter for those with an interest in photography, nature and the environment, travel, Africa, Zambia, Zambian life and happening things. And especially for those who just like looking at pictures.  
**Send your feedback - PhotoMail will be developed in line with what its subscribers want to see**  
 Photomail is available for free subscription by emailing me at wildfoto@wildfotoafrica.com

The Story Behind the Pictures:

## REMARKABLE TREES - AFRICA'S QUEEN OF TREES

In this PhotoMail, the first in a PhotoMail series on remarkable trees.



Mukuyu - Sycamore Fig, *Ficus sycomorus*  
 Africa's "Queen of Trees" is thought to have existed since 'the dawn of history' - this *Ficus* genus of trees dating back some 60 million years.

It's a very important food tree for animals - trees in an area often fruiting several times and at different times in a year, providing a series of feasts for insects, baboons, monkeys, bats, birds, warthogs, antelopes, and even humans (especially during times of famine).

Its wide-spreading branches and thick, large-leaved foliage make it a good shade tree. The dried figs have been noted to take on a sultana-like flavour and in Angola the fruits have been used to distill a gin-like spirit. Its bark is used to make rope and a concoction made from the leaves is used in traditional medicine to stimulate milk production in humans and cows.



But this Queen has a consort so unusual that they make a very odd couple - for this large tree's suitor is a liny, 1.5mm-long wasp. Their relationship is exclusively symbiotic, the life cycle of each of them being totally dependent on the other's. The liny wasp, called the Fig Wasp *Ceratosolen arabicus*, is so small that it is wind-blown from tree to tree. A Durham University study in Namibia found that the pollinating wasps are transported from tree to tree by 'riding the winds' for up to 160km, and perhaps much further afield.



In Egyptian Ancient History  
 Mukuyu was revered by the ancient Egyptians, who named it Nehet, cultivated it on an extensive scale and considered it the "tree of life". It features prominently in ancient Egyptian iconography, especially in illustrations placing it at the threshold of life and death. Its timber was used by ancient Egyptians to make coffins in the mummification process.



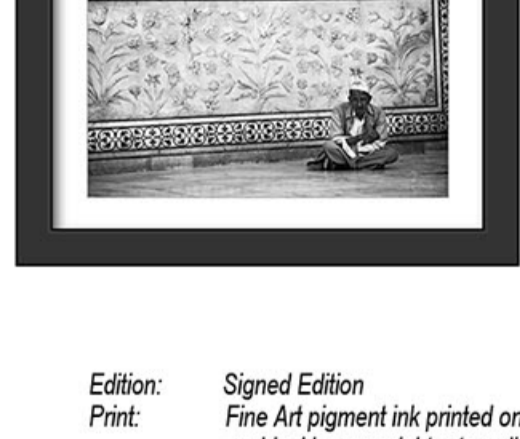
In Biblical symbolism  
 The Sycamore Fig, also known as the "Mulberry Fig", was regarded as the "seed of God". In particular, the typically cruciform shape of its wide-spreading main branches is noted in Christian symbolism - the tree was seen as mimicking a crucifix and it seemed to rise from the earth and reach out toward heaven. The figs of this tree have been claimed to be the 'forbidden fruit' taken by Eve, and its leaves those which Adam & Eve used to 'cover' themselves.

### THIS WEEK'S PRINT OFFER

#### Set of 3 framed prints - Vintage India - Taj Mahal at Agra

Signed Edition, Fine Art pigment ink prints on archival heavyweight art media matted & framed, each of over all framed size 48cm x38cm

Worldwide delivery is available. To reserve this set, please email wildfoto@wildfotoafrica.com



Title: Vintage India - Taj Mahal at Agra (set of 3 framed prints)  
 Yamuna River, Uttar Pradesh, N India  
 (refs: Tin.37VBW, Tin.39BW & Tin.42BW)

Edition: Signed Edition  
 Print: Fine Art pigment ink printed on archival heavyweight art media, matted & framed as a matching set  
 Framed size: 67cm x 44cm (27"x18")  
 Price: Gallery price - US\$580 set  
 OFFER price - US\$450 set

### PHOTOGRAPHER FOR HIRE

Stephen Robinson is a photographer operating from his Zambia base. He undertakes photo assignment work in the corporate, industrial, mining, donor-aid project and environmental fields, including the production of photo based communications, advertising and promotional media. Medium format panoramic photography and aerial work are specialities.

This commercial work supports his nature photography speciality, including landscape, environment, conservation and wildlife work - and including his well-known panoramic photography project and exhibitions on the remote landscape, peoples and environment of Zambia.

#### PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Assignments | Commercial | Calendars  
 Corporate Media | Features | Reportage  
 Nature & Landscape | Environment  
 Portraiture | Fine Art | Gallery

SPIRIT OF THE LAND  
 PANORAMIC AFRICA  
 FINE ART PRINTS  
 www.spirit-of-the-land.com

WILDFOTO  
 Stock Photo Library | Fine Art Prints  
 www.wildfotoafrica.com

ENQUIRIES  
 EMAIL: wildfoto@wildfotoafrica.com  
 TEL: +260 966 992999

### NEXT PhotoMail ISSUES

More Remarkable Trees

In the Footsteps of Artists

Landscape Africa B&W - the land in monochrome

and the stories behind the pictures

Back Issues - all back issues of PhotoMail can be seen at  
[www.wildfotoafrica.com](http://www.wildfotoafrica.com)

If this PhotoMail has been sent to you in error, or if you want to cancel a subscription, please send an email with 'PhotoMail unsubscribe' in the subject header.

All photographs ©Stephen Robinson. All rights reserved. Photographs can be supplied as prints or made available for licensed use by first contacting me at wildfoto@wildfotoafrica.com