

The Baobab Tree (*Adansonia digitata*): The Insects it Houses and Their Contribution to the Ecosystem

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The Baobab tree, *Adansonia digitata*, is used extensively by humans in its native Africa. It hollows out over time enabling it to hold water, which is then utilized by humans and animals in this arid landscape. The insects that live on and near this tree affect the surrounding community both positively and negatively. The baobab houses honey bees and edible insects, as well as larvae of malarial mosquitoes and the cotton stainer – an insect that can wreak havoc on crops. This paper takes a holistic approach to the baobab, considering its uses and effects on humans nearby.