

Kew

PLANTS PEOPLE
POSSIBILITIES



This report was generated from the SEPASAL database (www.kew.org/ceb/sepasal) in August 2007. This database is freely available to members of the public.

SEPASAL is a database and enquiry service about useful "wild" and semi-domesticated plants of tropical and subtropical drylands, developed and maintained at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. "Useful" includes plants which humans eat, use as medicine, feed to animals, make things from, use as fuel, and many other uses.

Since 2004, there has been a Namibian SEPASAL team, based at the National Botanical Research Institute of the Ministry of Agriculture which has been updating the information on Namibian species from Namibian and southern African literature and unpublished sources. By August 2007, over 700 Namibian species had been updated.

Work on updating species information, and adding new species to the database, is ongoing. It may be worth visiting the web site and querying the database to obtain the latest information for this species.

Internet SEPASAL

New query

Edit query

View query results

 *Display help*In names list include: synonyms vernacular names and display: 10 names per page*Your query found 1 taxon***Commiphora wildii Merxm. [1669]**

Family: BURSERACEAE

Synonyms

None recorded

Vernacular names

Afrikaans (Namibia)	eikeblaar-kanniedood [5298]
English	oak-leaved corkwood [5298]
English (Namibia)	oak-leaved commiphora [5083] [5298]
German (Namibia)	Eichenblattbalsam [5083], Eichenblättriger Balsambaum [5298]
Herero (Namibia)	omuhatji [5095], omuwonga [5095]
Himba (Namibia)	omumbiri [5153]
Khoekhoegowab (Namibia)	antob [5083] [5095], herare [5083] [5095], tineb [5083] [5095]
Oshindonga (Namibia)	oshiziwowo [5083]

Distribution

Plant origin	Continent	Region	Botanical country
Native	Africa	South Tropical Africa Southern Africa	Angola [1674] Namibia s.l. [5121]

Descriptors

Category	Descriptors and states
DESCRIPTION	Deciduous [5121]; Erect [5153]; Multistemmed [5121]; Dioecious [5298]; Terrestrial; Shrub [5121] [5298]; Caudiciform [5121]; Tree [5082]; Perennial [5153]; Unarmed - entire plant [5121] [5298]; Pachycaul - stems [5121] [5298]; Aromatic - gum/resins [5153]; Plant Height 0.5-2.5 m [5104]; Crown Width <= 5 m [5121]
CLIMATE	Marked Dry Season [5106] [5153]; Tropical Summer Rains [5121]; Frost Tolerant [2255]; Subtropical, Hot and Arid [5298]; Annual Rainfall <= 250 mm [5106] [5121]; Dry Season Length 8-11 months [5153]
SOILS	Well Drained [5153]; Shallow [5153]; Gravels/Stony [2255] [5121] [5123]; Sands [2255]; Dry [5153]; Loams [5123]
HABITAT	Coastal Regions [1174]; Lowland [5121]; Upland [5121]; Plains/Flats/Pans [5121]; Hillsides/Slopes [5121]; Outcrops/Kopjes/Inselbergs [5121]; Desert [5121]; Semi-Desert [5121]
PRODUCTION	Potential Environmental Uses [5121]

AND VALUE

FURTHER DATA SOURCES Dot Distribution Map [[5121](#)] [[5123](#)]; Additional References [[5388](#)]; Regional Distribution Map [[5082](#)] [[5298](#)]; Botanical Photograph [[5298](#)]; Databases [[5123](#)] [[5327](#)]; Habit Illustration/Photograph [[5298](#)]

SEPASAL DATASHEET STATUS All Data Transferred from SEPASAL Paper Files; Geographical Checks Completed for Africa [[5153](#)]

Uses

Major use	Use group	Specific uses
FOOD	Stems	potable water, other situations when food is used [5095]
	Infructescences	fruits [5095]
ANIMAL FOOD	Unspecified Parts	goats [5095]
	Fertile Plant Parts	birds [5095]
INVERTEBRATE FOOD		edible insects/caterpillars/larvae [5095]
MATERIALS	Gums/Resins	live plant in situ, resins, perfumes [5153]; gums, perfumes [5095]
ENVIRONMENTAL USES [1174]	Revegetators	

Picture

None recorded

Notes

NOMENCLATURE/TAXONOMY

Name derivation:

Named after Prof. Hiram Wild of the University of Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). [[5298](#)].

DISTRIBUTION

Namibia:

Common to uncommon in north-western and central-western Namibia [[5121](#)].

RARITY/CONSERVATION

Endemic to the Namib Desert [[5121](#)].

DESCRIPTION

Bark:

grey-brown, sometimes peeling [[5082](#)] [[5121](#)].

Flowers:

Small, greenish yellow, unisexual, on different plants, single or in groups, on fairly long stalks [[5298](#)].

Fruit:

Almost round, red when ripe, pseudaril yellow [[5298](#)].

Fruit:

Ovoid, orange to pale red, pseudo-aril cup-shaped, yellow or orange, with four very short lobes [[5082](#)].

Leaf fall:

Deciduous. Leaves from December to June, or earlier if rains fall earlier [[5121](#)] [[5153](#)].

Leaves:
Pinnately compound; the leaflet blades running into the winged rachis and petiole, giving the appearance of a deeply divided single leaf. Covered with short, fine, grey hairs [5082] .

Leaves:
resembling oak leaves [5121] .

Lifeform:
a shrub-like spreading tree up to 2.5 m tall [5082] .

Lifeform:
A tree-like shrub [5298] .

Stem:
Dividing into thick, succulent-like branches from the base, not spiny [5298] .

Stem:
Thick, swollen, branching near the ground [5121] .

FOOD - STEMS

potable water, other situations:
Stems are chewed for moisture when the people are out herding [5095] .

FOOD - INFRUCTESCENCES

Fruit:
Edible, but mostly eaten by birds [5095] .

INVERTEBRATE FOOD

Edible caterpillars:
Usta wallengrenii (Saturniidae) are abundant in the rainy season [5095] .

MATERIALS - GUMS/RESINS

live plant in situ, perfumes, resin:
Used by the Himba [5153] .

Gums, perfumes:
The aromatic gum is pound into a powder and added as a perfume to fat or bought body creams such as vaseline [5095] .

ENVIRONMENTAL USES - REVEGETATORS

Land reclamation [1174] .

ENVIRONMENTAL USES - ORNAMENTALS

Potential:
Horticultural potential as pachycaul and bonsai subject [5121] .

GEOLOGY

Parent material:
Granite, basalt and other rock types [5121] [5123] [5153] .
Mica schist and red sand .

FLOWERING/FRUITING/SEED SET

Flowering:
only recorded in December and April [5121] .

Flowering:

December and January [1600] [5082] .

Fruiting:

December to June, but mostly found in April [5121] .

Fruiting:

February to May [5082] .

PHYSIOLOGICAL TOLERANCES

Frost tolerance:

The recorded frost tolerance of this plant is questionable since it grows in frost-free areas [5153] .

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND DATASHEET PROGRESS

Updated by B. Curtis, checked by C. Mannheimer, SEPASAL Namibia, National Botanical Research Institute, February 2005 .

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

The information from Gärtner et al, 1982 [1174] should be used with caution as much of it is questionable [5153] .

References

- [1174] Gärtner, G., Kochendörfer, G., Kolbusch, P., et al. 1982. *Nutzungsmöglichkeiten ausgewählter Trockenzonenpflanzen in Entwicklungsländern. [Crop potential of semi-arid zone plants in developing countries]*. Munich: Weltforum-Verlag. 259p. Ge. Series: Forschungsberichte des Bundesministeriums für Wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit.
- [1600] Coates Palgrave, K. 1988. *Trees of Southern Africa*. Cape Town: Struik. 959p. En. 2nd ed. (revised); edited by E.J. Moll and written in association with R.B. Drummond.
- [1669] Arnold, T.H. and de Wet, B.C., eds. 1993. *Plants of Southern Africa: names and distribution*. Pretoria, South Africa: National Botanical Institute. iv, 825p.
- [1674] Flora of Southern Africa. 1963-. Pretoria, South Africa: South African Government Printer. En. Volumes edited by O.A. Leistner et al.
- [2255] SEPASAL.. *Survey of Economic Plants for Arid and Semi-Arid Lands. Notes from SEPASAL datasheet*. Kew, U.K.: Centre for Economic Botany, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.
- [5082] Coates Palgrave, K. 2002. *Trees of Southern Africa*. Cape Town: Struik Publishers. 3rd ed.
- [5083] Craven, P. and Kolberg, H. In prep. *Common names of Namibian plants*. Windhoek.
- [5095] Sullivan, S. 1998. *People, plants and practice in drylands: socio-political and ecological dimensions of resource-use by Damara farmers in north-west Namibia*. London: University College London. Unpublished PhD. thesis.
- [5104] Germishuizen, G. and Meyer, N.L., eds. 2003. *Plants of southern Africa: an annotated checklist*. Strelitzia 14. Pretoria: National Botanical Institute.
- [5106] Mendelsohn, J., Jarvis, A., Roberts, C. and Robertson, T. 2002. *Atlas of Namibia. A portrait of the land and its people*. Cape Town, South Africa: David Philip.
- [5121] Curtis, B.A. and Mannheimer, C.A. 2005. *Tree Atlas of Namibia*. Windhoek: National Botanical Research Institute of Namibia. 704p.
- [5123] National Herbarium of Namibia. Undated. *Specimen Database (SPMNDB)*. Windhoek: National Botanical Research Institute of Namibia.
- [5153] Curtis, B.A. 2004. *Pers. comm., 7 December 2004*. National Botanical Research Institute: Windhoek.
- [5298] Steyn, M. 2003. *A fieldguide to Southern Africa Commiphora, Suider-Afrika, 'n veldgids*. Polokwane, South Africa: the author. 92p. email: menmsteyn@absamail.co.za.
- [5327] Namibian Tree Atlas Database. Undated. Windhoek: National Botanical Research Institute. www.biodiversity.org.na.
- [5388] Van der Walt, J.J.A. 1975. The South West African species of *Commiphora*. *Mitt. Bot. Munchen*. 12: 195-266.

SEPASAL's development has been funded by The Clothworkers' Foundation and its Internet development is funded by The Charles Wolfson Charitable Trust. Nutritional information on African wild foods is funded by Nestlé Charitable Trust.
All data © The Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, 1999-2007 [Full copyright statement](#)
If you wish to cite SEPASAL, please read [this](#) first
To send us feedback and bug reports, please click [here](#)