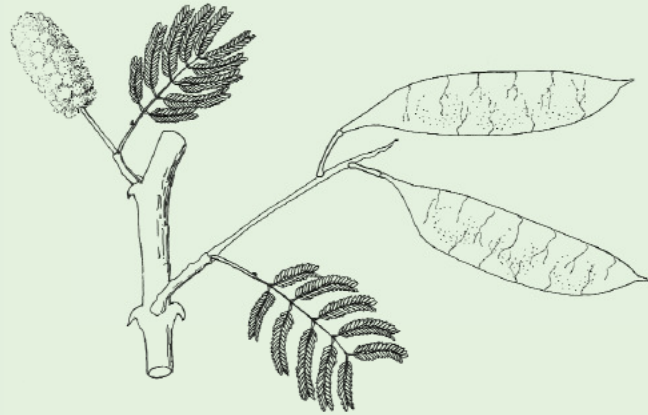


Acacia erubescens

Yellow-bark Acacia

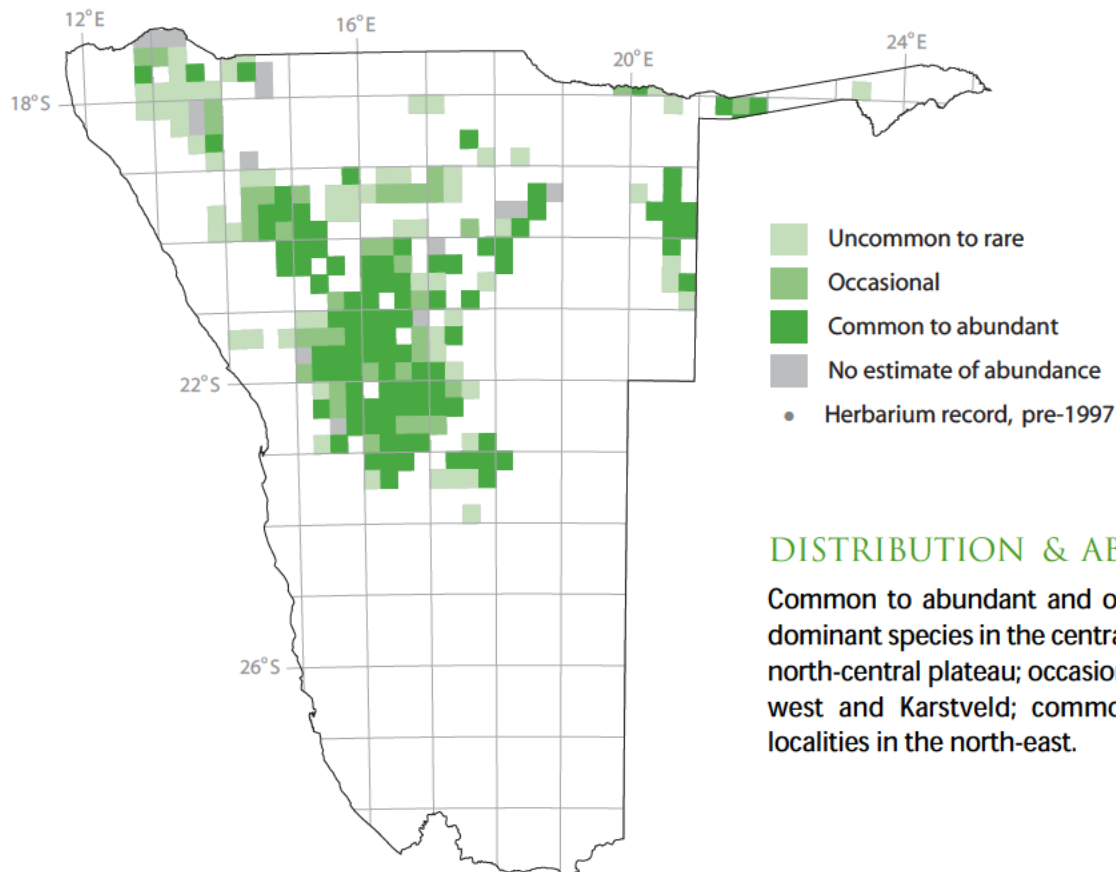
Withaak (A); Birkenrindenakazie (G);
omungongomwi (H); dūs (K);
murengambo (T)

[650 records from 221 (21%) squares]



A multi-stemmed tree or shrub. BARK **yellowish, papery, peeling**. THORNS hooked, **dark-tipped**. LEAVES **about as wide as long; leaflets widely spaced**, giving the tree an open, airy appearance; **long petioles with a columnar gland**. FLOWERS in **spikes**; creamy-white, **sometimes pink**. FRUIT a flat, leathery pod pointed at the tip.

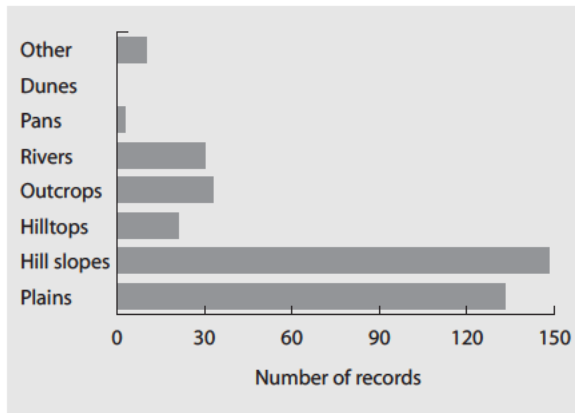
Both flowers and pods are conspicuous. At a distance this species can be confused with *A. senegal*, or with *A. fleckii*.

**DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE**

Common to abundant and often one of the dominant species in the central highlands and north-central plateau; occasional in the north-west and Karstveld; common in scattered localities in the north-east.

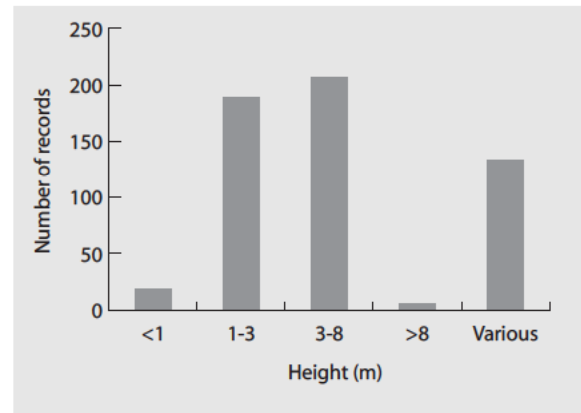
HABITAT

Various, but predominantly hill slopes and plains. Generally on rocky substrates including granite, mica schist, sometimes calcrete; seldom on sand.



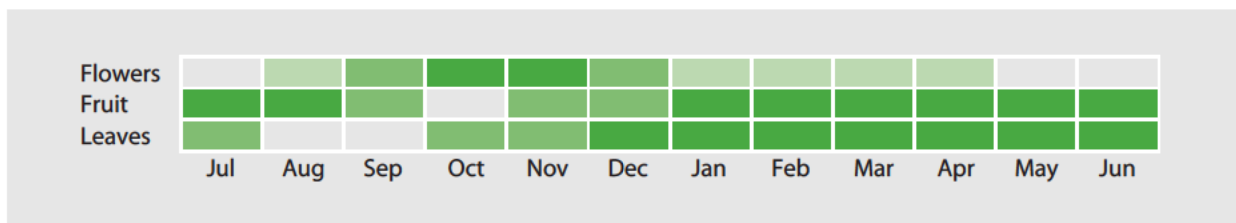
GROWTH FORM

A shrub up to 3 m high or a tree up to 8 m, seldom over 8 m; stands often ranging in height. Thicket-forming in places, for example, in square 2116DD.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS start in August and peak in October/November. However, flowering was observed in February/March in 1998 in various places, and April in 2000 in the west. A number of atlasers recorded exceptional flowering in early 1998. FRUIT mostly January to April; young fruit from December to March, ripe fruit in July. LEAVES present from December until June or July, with most trees bare in winter; new leaves produced in October and November.



GENERAL

Acacia erubescens provides good firewood; in addition, the branches are used for making huts and kraal fences and the bark is used to make string. The gum is edible and very sweet. Bees are attracted to the flowers, and the honey reported to be good; moths also visit the flowers. This species is browsed by giraffe, kudu and elephant; Black Rhino were reported to browse the leaves in 2017AD (Waterberg).

This is an aggressive species and can proliferate to the detriment of other species; its encroachment is particularly bad in 2016AD. It is often parasitised by *Tapinanthus* spp. and sometimes defoliated by caterpillars; many plants have been killed by a fungal infection in 2016DD.

It is also known as Soetgom in some areas (PLE1, 1914DD).

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.