

Acacia *haematoxylon*

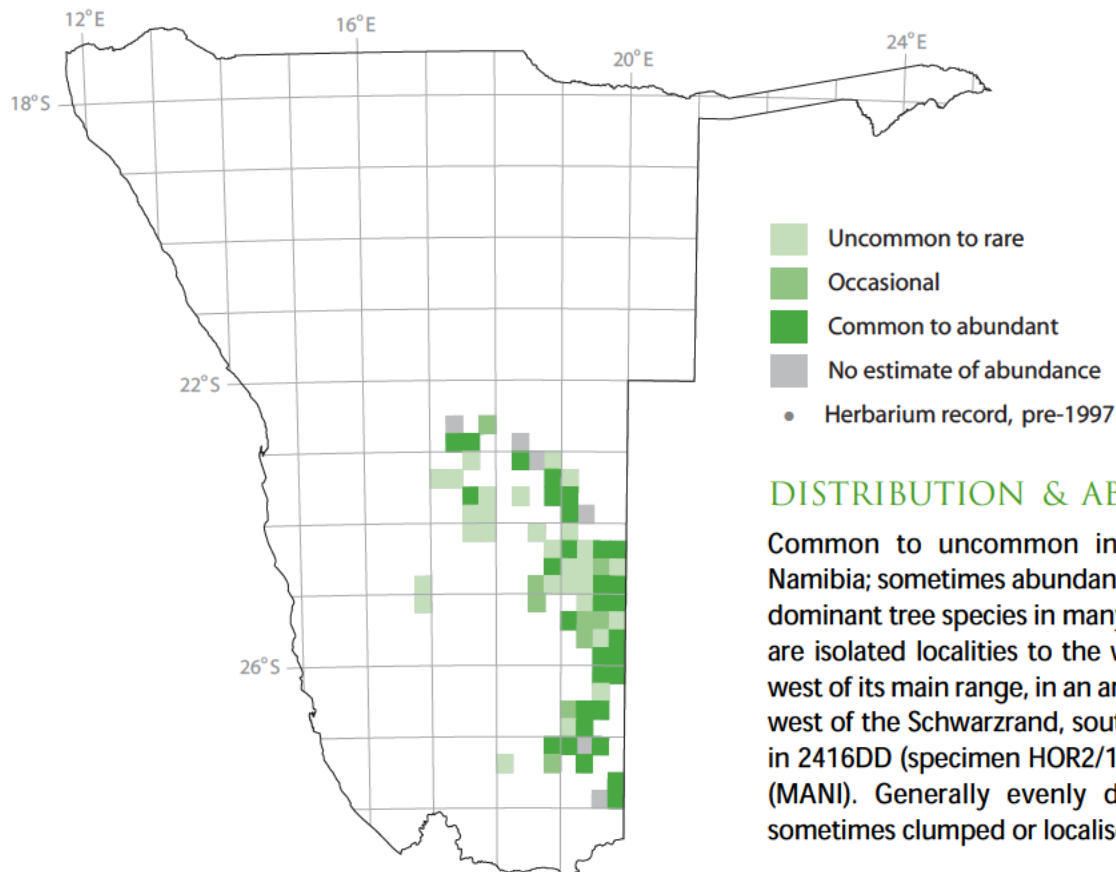
Vaalkameel

Grey camel-thorn (E);
!khas (K)

[164 records from 75 (7%) squares]



Shrub or small tree with **markedly grey appearance**. THORNS **extremely slender**, straight and white. LEAVES **grey**; leaflets so tiny and close together that the leaves appear to be once-compound only. FLOWERS in yellow balls. FRUIT a **woody, grey, velvety pod**; narrow, cylindrical, sickle-shaped to spirally contorted. Flowers and pods are obvious. Could be confused with *Tarchonanthus camphoratus*. This species cannot be confused with any other *Acacia*, but hybrids between it and *A. erioloba* have features midway between the two.

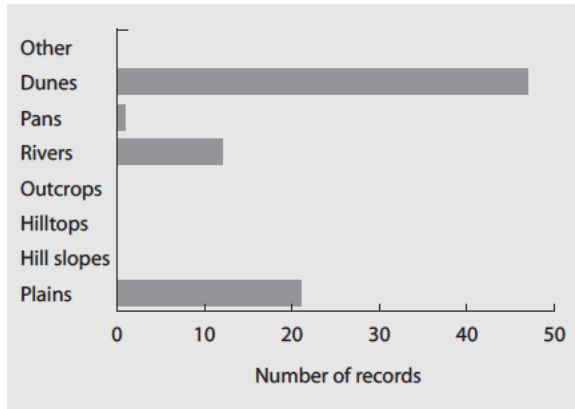


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Common to uncommon in south-eastern Namibia; sometimes abundant and one of the dominant tree species in many squares. There are isolated localities to the west and north-west of its main range, in an area of dunes just west of the Schwarzrand, south of Maltahöhe in 2416DD (specimen HOR2/158) and 2516BB (MANI). Generally evenly distributed, but sometimes clumped or localised.

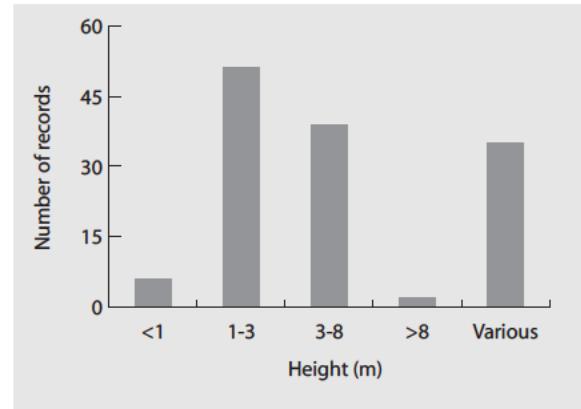
HABITAT

Mostly found on dunes and sand hummocks; also on sandy plains and interdune valleys; sometimes dry river courses, where it was generally rare. Substrate always sand or gravel. Individuals over 8 m were mostly recorded in dry riverbeds.



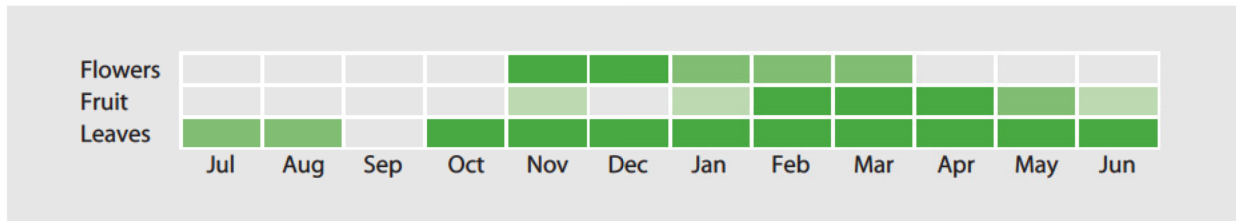
GROWTH FORM

Generally a tree from 1–8 m tall; occasionally over 8 m. Often a shrub or shrubby tree up to 8 m high. Forms thickets south-east of Windhoek. Mixed populations of various heights were often recorded.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS November to March. **FRUIT** mostly February to May, with a few records in other months. **LEAVES** almost year-round, although many trees bare or with old leaves in September; new leaves produced in response to rain in 2318CB in October 2000 (FOR1).



GENERAL

Die-back and coppicing were noted in areas to the south-east of Windhoek. Fruit eaten by stock.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded. Protected by forestry legislation.



Acacia haematoxylon, E. Ellinger