

Acacia luederitzii

Kalahari Acacia

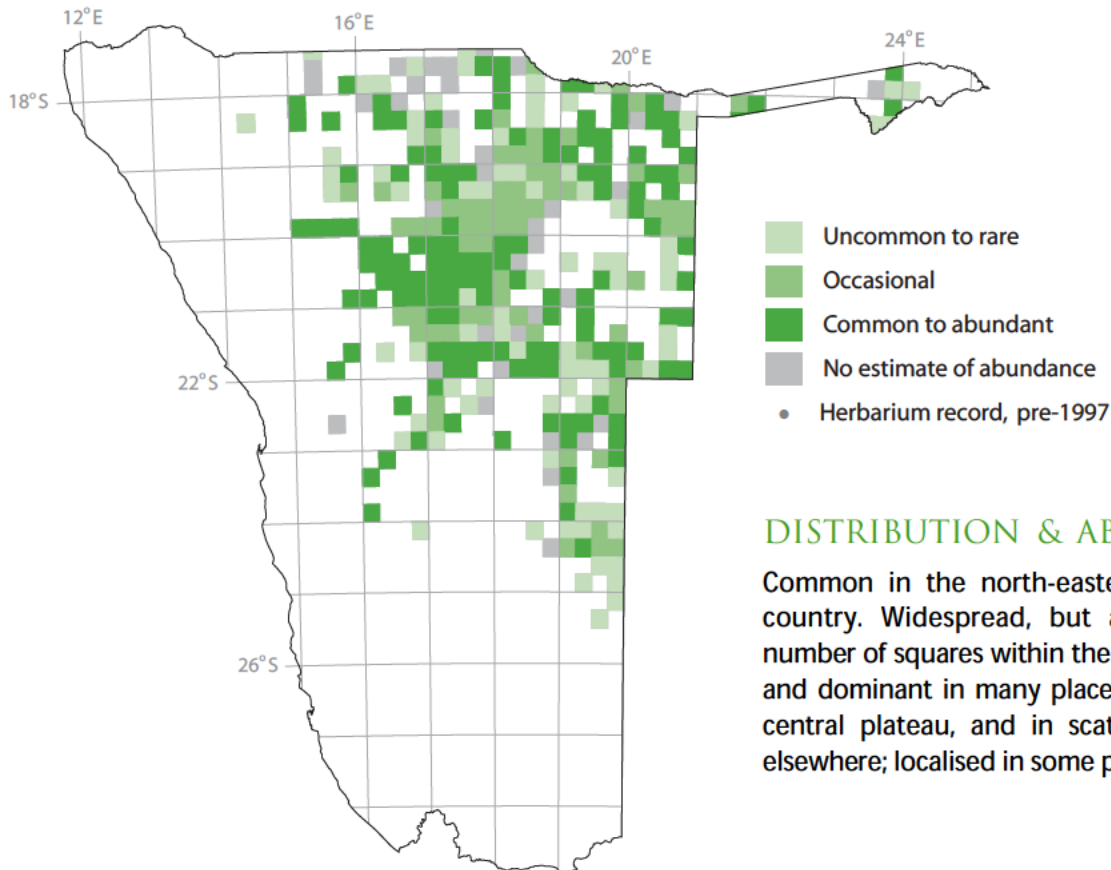
Baster-haak-en-steek (A);
Lüderitzakazie (G); djoa (Kx);
mumangondijamba (Rk)

[937 records from 326 (30%) squares]



A medium-sized tree with a **flattened** to rounded canopy. BARK **dark, fissured**; reddish on young trees. THORNS **hooked or straight**, in pairs. LEAVES **softly hairy, with 3–9 pinna pairs and 10–26 leaflet pairs**; leaflets small and **generally fringed with hairs**. FLOWERS creamy-white balls. FRUIT a flat, linear-oblong, reddish-brown pod; slightly pointed at the ends.

Pods and flowers are conspicuous. The tree is difficult to tell apart from *A. reficiens*. Many TAP records could have been misidentifications. Where possible, the data have been cleaned using size and distribution. Completely uncertain records have been deleted from the database. Farmers often do not distinguish between the two species, and simply refer to them both as 'basterkameel'.

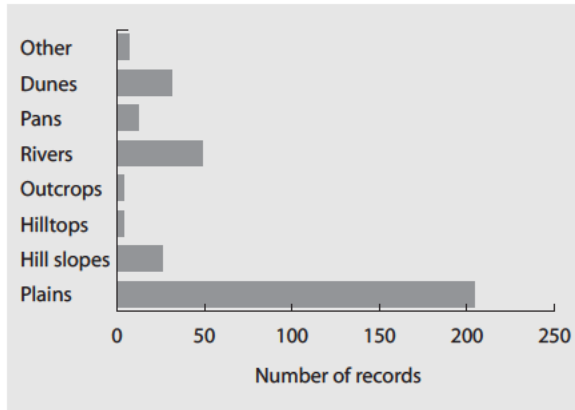


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Common in the north-eastern half of the country. Widespread, but absent from a number of squares within the area. Abundant and dominant in many places on the north-central plateau, and in scattered localities elsewhere; localised in some places.

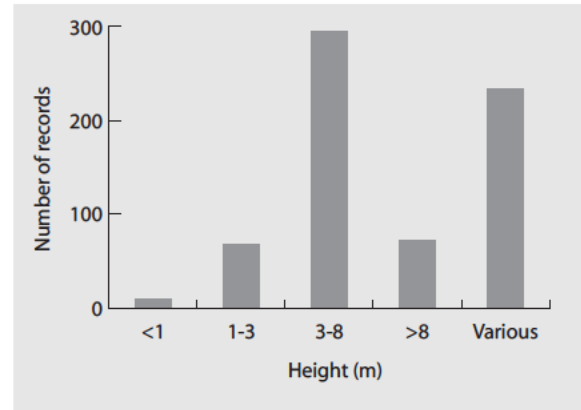
HABITAT

Most often found on sandy plains, sometimes on calcrete; often abundant in dry rivers. Also found on sand hummocks and sometimes hill slopes. On floodplains in the Cuvelai area.



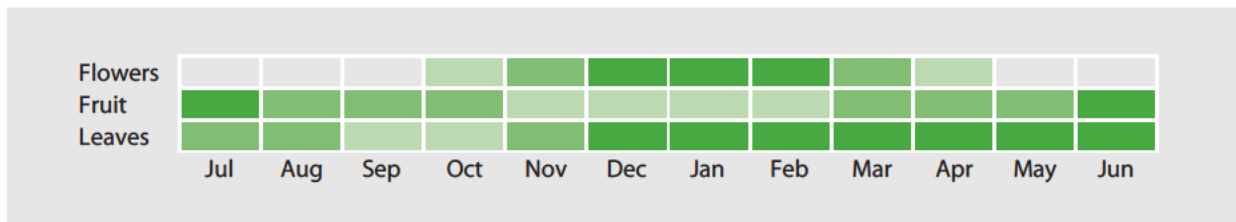
GROWTH FORM

Mostly a tree (70% of records) 3–8 m high (60% of trees), but sometimes over 8 m (13%). About 40% of the records consisted of healthy stands with trees of varying heights, mainly in the north-east and Kalahari.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS never prolific, but present mainly between November and March. No flowering was recorded in some areas some years; in 2118DB, the 'first blossoms in three years' were produced in 2001 (TOL1). FRUIT present all year, but mostly March to October, with young fruit February to April and ripe fruit April and May. There were records of fruit apparently being affected by the heat in February 1998 in 1916D when the trees 'flowered well but seeds did not form well because of the heat' (HOB1). LEAVES present all year, but with many plants bare in September and October; young leaves produced from September to November.



GENERAL

This tree is browsed, especially the young shoots. Flowers are eaten by springbok and giraffe; butterflies are attracted to the flowers. White-browed Sparrow-weavers nest in the trees.

The gum is edible, but not in common use; the fruit is also edible. Ash from this species is used to prevent infection of the naval in newborn babies. The wood and bark are used for construction (fencing poles); root bark and the root core are used for traditional purposes (arrow quivers, pestles). Bark fibres used for hut building and to make cords for jewellery.

In some areas it is encroaching; in a few areas trees are dying.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.