

Acacia nigrescens

Knob-thorn

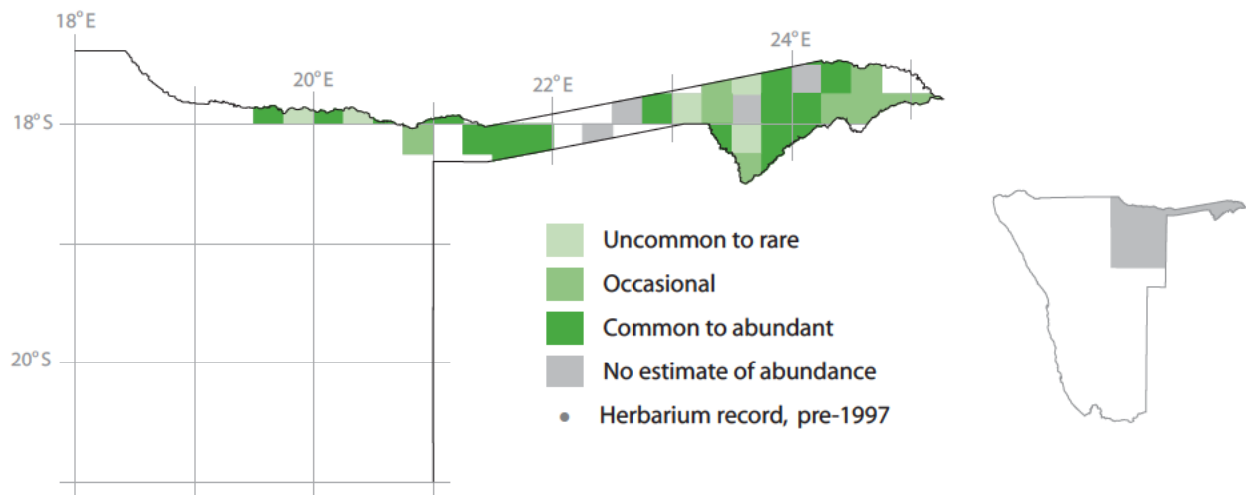
Knoppiesdoring (A); yi (J); mukotokoto (L); ngandu (Rk, Rum)

[123 records from 38 (4%) squares]



A tall tree with an **erect**, single trunk and spreading canopy. **BARK yellowish and papery or dark and longitudinally fissured**; often with hooked thorns on **raised knobs on trunk** and older branches, although not always present. **THORNS** paired, hooked. **LEAVES** with 2–3 pinna pairs, each with 1–2 pairs of **large, oval leaflets**. **FLOWERS** in spikes just before the leaves; white with reddish buds. **FRUIT** a straight, flat, narrow pod, with pointed tips.

When not in leaf it can be confused with *A. polyacantha* or *A. galpinii*.

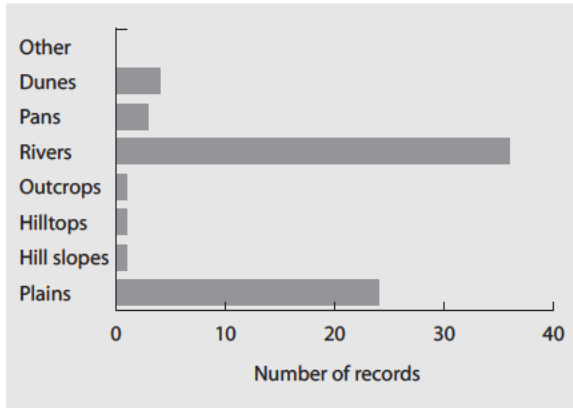


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Generally common and widespread in Caprivi and along the Okavango River.

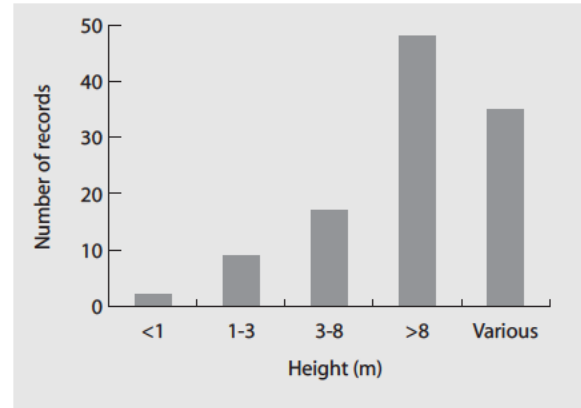
HABITAT

Always in woodlands or riverine forest. Mostly on sandy plains, where it is common to abundant; more often abundant on river banks; occasional on floodplains. Generally growing on sand, but often recorded on termite hills.



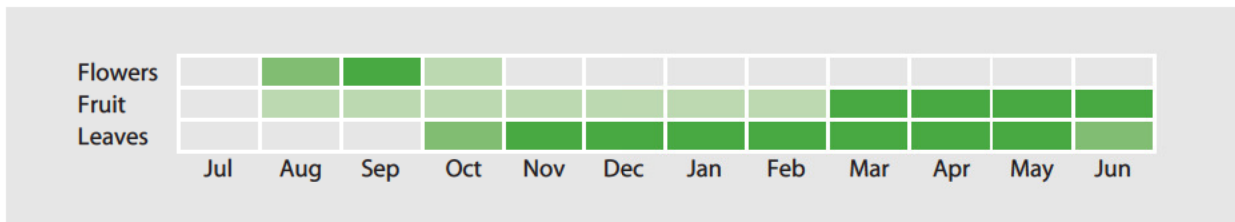
GROWTH FORM

Mostly a tree over 8 m high; many young plants recorded.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS August to October, but mostly in September. **FRUIT** most often from March to June, but also noted on some trees from August to February. **LEAVES** mainly November to May, with new leaves recorded in October and February.



GENERAL

The wood of *A. nigrescens* is used for making furniture, fence poles and implements; the bark for making string. The tree is browsed by stock and game, including elephant. In many areas along the river it forms impenetrable stands, especially in protected areas. One individual grew up as a volunteer on Farm Chipururu (1918AD) where it was a tree, 5 m tall (KAH11998).

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

Threatened by clearing for homesteads and fields, especially along the Okavango River.

Acacia nigrescens, knobs on trunk, P. Tarr

