

Adansonia digitata

Baobab / Omukwa

Kremetartboom; dorsboom (A);
Affenbrotbaum (G); mubuyu (L); uyu
(Rk, Rum); divuyu (T)

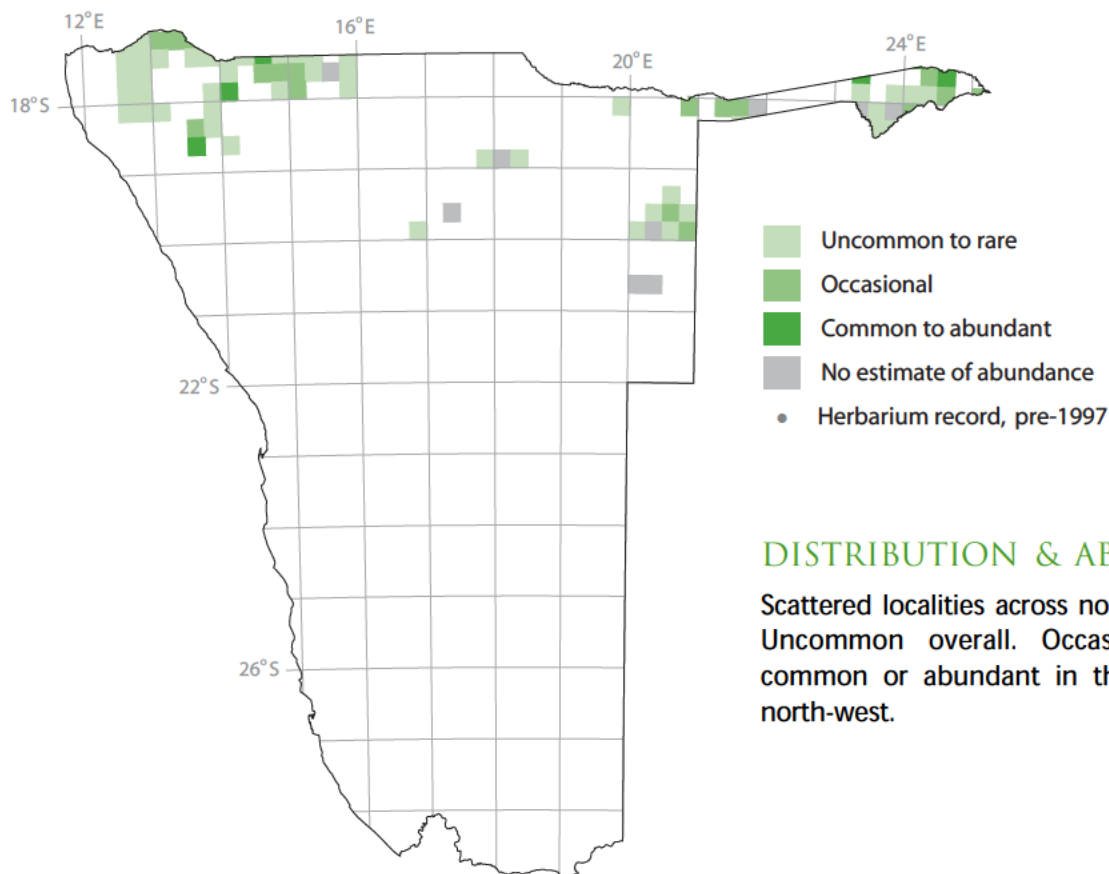
[195 records from 81 (8%) squares]



See page 449 for photo.

Deciduous tree with a **massive trunk**, often greater than 1 m in diameter. **BARK smooth**, pinkish brown to grey-brown, often convoluted. **LEAVES 5–7-palmately compound**. **FLOWERS large, pure white, with five crinkled, curled-back, waxy petals and numerous stamens fused to form a central column; hanging on long stalks**. **FRUIT very large, ovoid**, with olive-green, velvety covering.

Fruit and flowers are very conspicuous. Adult trees cannot be mistaken; young may be overlooked as they have simple leaves which are very different from those of older plants, and they lack the thick stem.

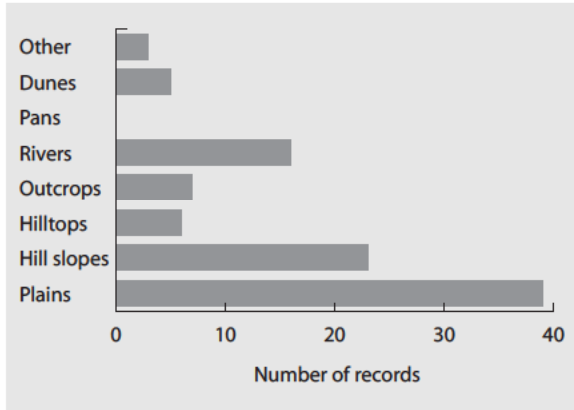


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Scattered localities across northern Namibia. Uncommon overall. Occasionally locally common or abundant in the Cuvelai and north-west.

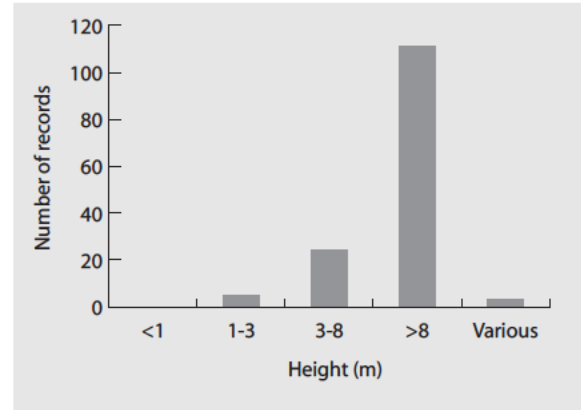
HABITAT

Mostly found on sandy plains, also rocky hill slopes; occasionally on clay or sandy loam on floodplains. Generally in woodlands.



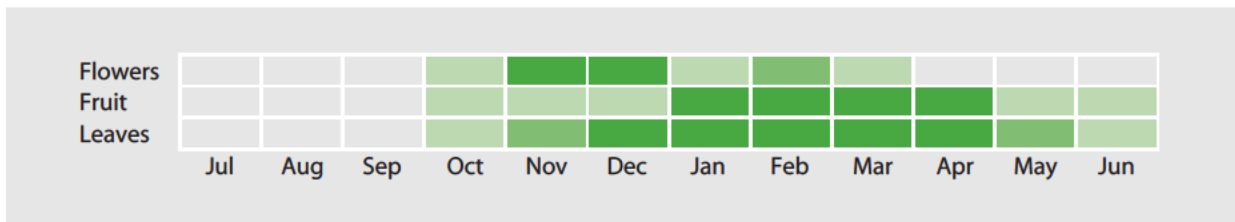
GROWTH FORM

Always a tree, usually over 8 m tall; >20 m near the Kunene River. Few young ones recorded.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS October until March, but most often in November and December, with a second peak in February (the only two herbarium flowering records were in February and November). **FRUIT** mostly January until April; young fruit appear in October and November. **LEAVES** bare from July to September, with young leaves appearing in October.



GENERAL

The uses of this species are numerous and well documented and will not be repeated here. No new information came from the TAP. Severe damage to the trunk was reported from near Tsintsabis in 1817DD (FRI1). Some individual trees are known as 'holboom' as these trees are often hollow in the centre (FRI1).

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

This species is generally protected by local communities for its medicinal uses and place in folklore. It is indirectly threatened by fire and elephant, in areas where elephant occur. The apparent lack of young plants to replace the old ones may be a concern, but young trees may have been overlooked. Protected by forestry legislation.