

Albizia antunesiana

Muto

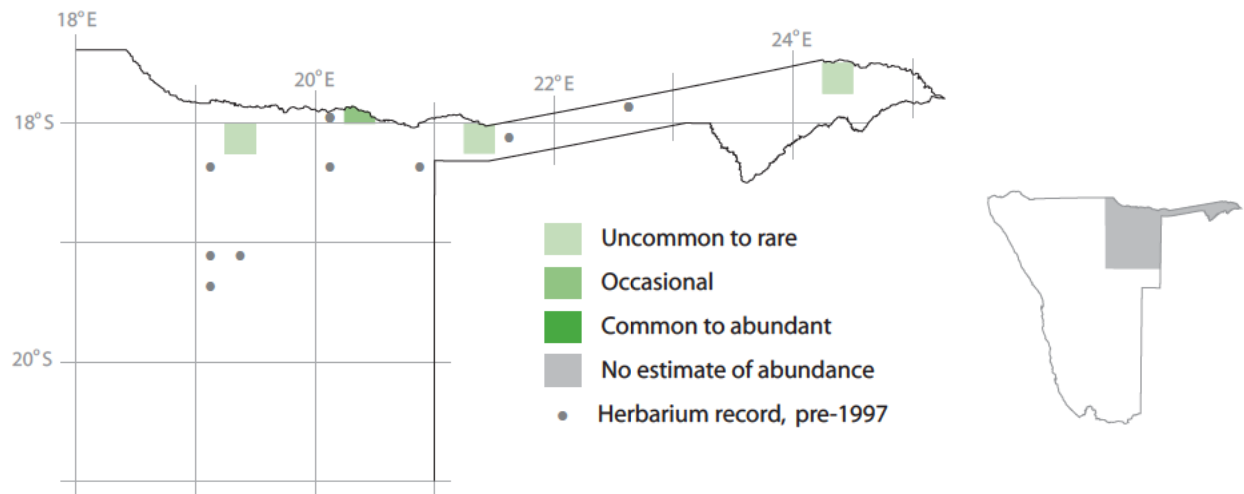
Purple-leaved albizia (E); goro-tco (Kx);
mugha (L); muhurungu (Rk, Rum)

[6 records from 5 squares]



A small tree with a spreading, drooping crown. LEAVES twice compound; leaflets **large, opposite, oval to oblong with a blunt tip and an oblique midrib; distinctively pale below** with conspicuous veins; **young leaves** and the leaves on young trees **are often purple**, hence the common name. FLOWERS with conspicuous, yellow stamens and a rust-red calyx. FRUIT a pale brown pod, 110–160 x 25–40 mm, with constrictions between the seeds.

When not in flower, may be confused with *Burkea africana* and *Erythrophleum africanum* at a distance. Close up, the leaflets of *Albizia antunesiana* are opposite while those of the other two species are alternate. It also lacks the brown, velvety, new growth on branch tips which is characteristic of *Burkea africana*.



DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Rare to occasional along the Okavango River; one record as an uncommon tree near Katima Mulilo. Earlier herbarium records are far more widespread along the Okavango River and Omuramba Omatako, but this species has definitely been overlooked due to its similarity with other species. It was only when specifically revisiting the localities of the earlier herbarium records that the present records along the Okavango River were noted – sometimes in places that had previously been atlasted (HOR2). The record from Katima Mulilo was not substantiated by a specimen, either now or in the past, but is within the range given in other references (Coates Palgrave 2002) for this species.

A single specimen (SWA3/168) from the Omavanda Mountains, just south of the Kunene River (1713AA) was brought in as the Tree Atlas was going to press. This is the first record for the Kaokoveld, and represents a disjunct range extension.

HABITAT

Plains, dunes and floodplains.

GROWTH FORM

A tree in the 3-8-m height class, sometimes 1-3 m and once over 8 m high. According to herbarium records it may be up to 20 m high, and sometimes a shrub.

ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS September and October. FRUIT September, October and May. LEAVES deciduous.

GENERAL

Roots used as a cold remedy.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

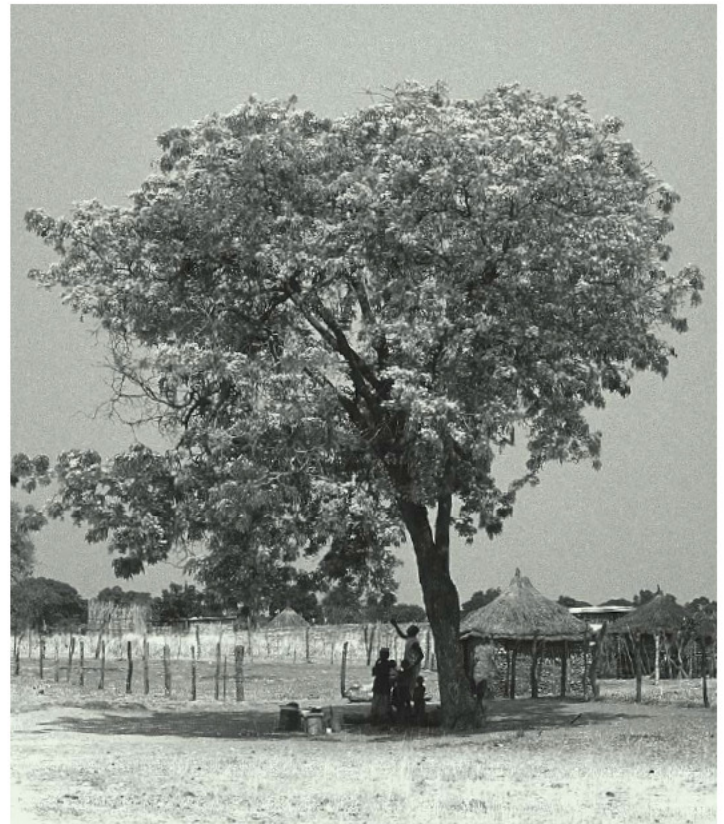
Affected by fire.

Albizia anthelmintica

Continued from page 121:

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

The low numbers of young trees recorded is a concern, as is the number of dead trees in some areas. It is protected by forestry legislation.



Albizia antunesiana, P. Horn