

Albizia versicolor

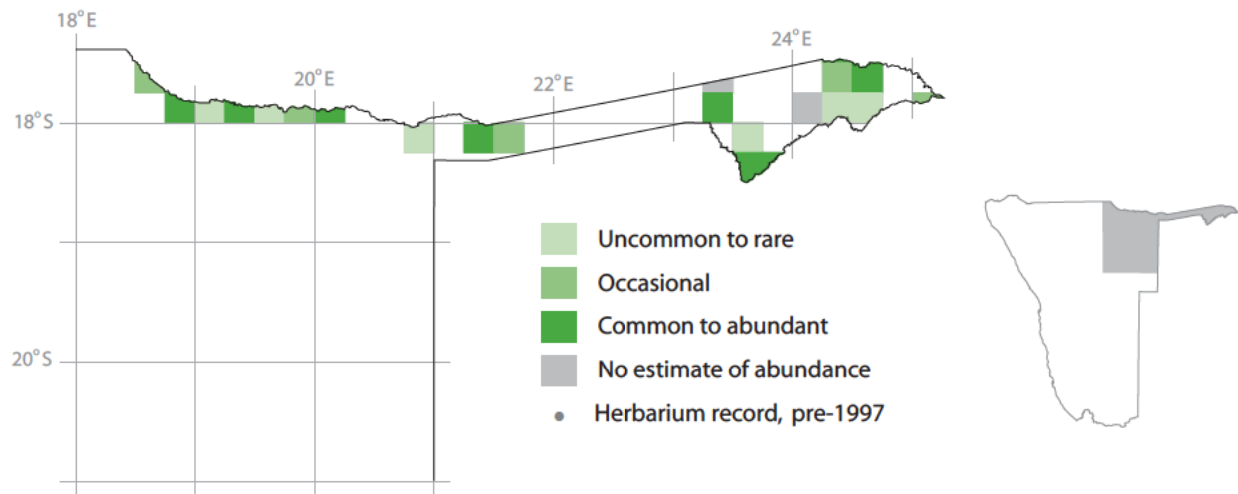
Musese

Large-leaved albizia, poison-pod
albizia (E); mububa (L)

[55 records from 25 (2%) squares]

A beautiful, spreading tree. BARK rough, grey-brown; **branchlets yellow-brown, downy**. LEAVES the **largest** of all the Namibian *Albizia* spp., up to 300 x 200 mm, with 2–4 pinnae, each of which can be up to 180 mm long; leaflets (2–4 pairs) are alternately arranged, **broadly elliptic to almost square, downy**; undersurface of the leaflet and the petiole with a **rust-red, downy covering**. FLOWERS **half-spherical heads, stamens long and numerous**, cream to white, petals small. FRUIT a large, **reddish brown pod in huge clusters**.

The tree may be confused with *Sclerocarya birrea* from a distance, but the leaves of *S. birrea* have a terminal leaflet and are generally hairless.



DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

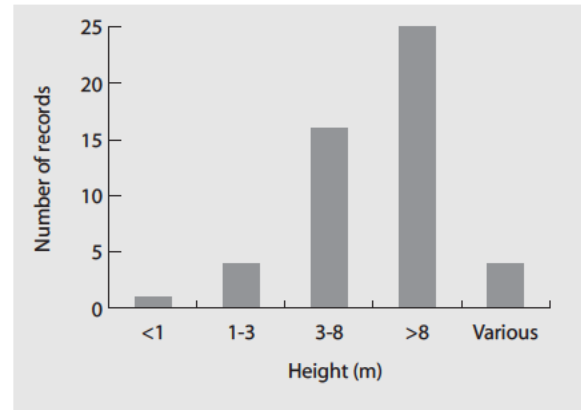
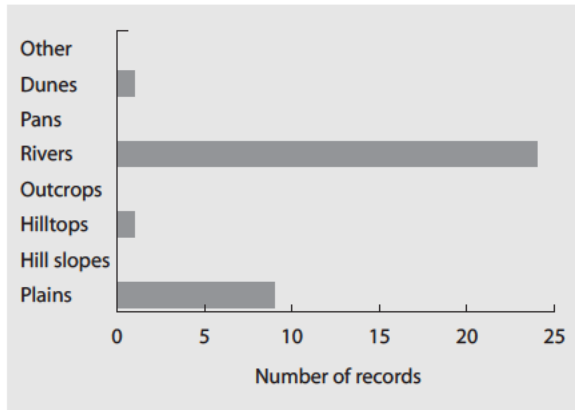
Fairly common in eastern Caprivi and all along the Okavango River. According to Coates Palgrave (2002) it occurs further west, and there was one uncertain TAP record which has not been mapped.

HABITAT

Mostly on river banks, but also floodplains and plains. Grows on sandy substrates.

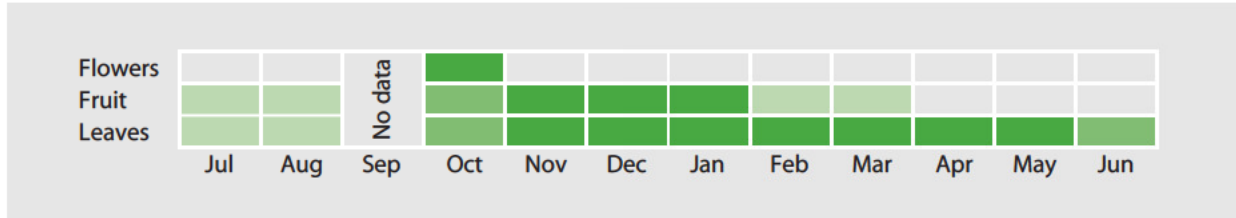
GROWTH FORM

A tree of 8 m or taller; some young growth recorded.



ANNUAL CYCLE

No observations of this species were made in September. FLOWERS October and November. FRUIT July to March. LEAVES most of the year, with new leaves in October and December.



GENERAL

The pods are poisonous to stock; the bark and roots are used medicinally; the wood is used for furniture and implements. It is a beautiful shade tree with horticultural potential for frost-free areas, and has been successfully planted in Tsumkwe and at Ongwediva College. There is a village along the Okavango River named after this tree.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.

Albizia versicolor inflorescence and leaves,
B. Curtis

