

Aloe dichotoma

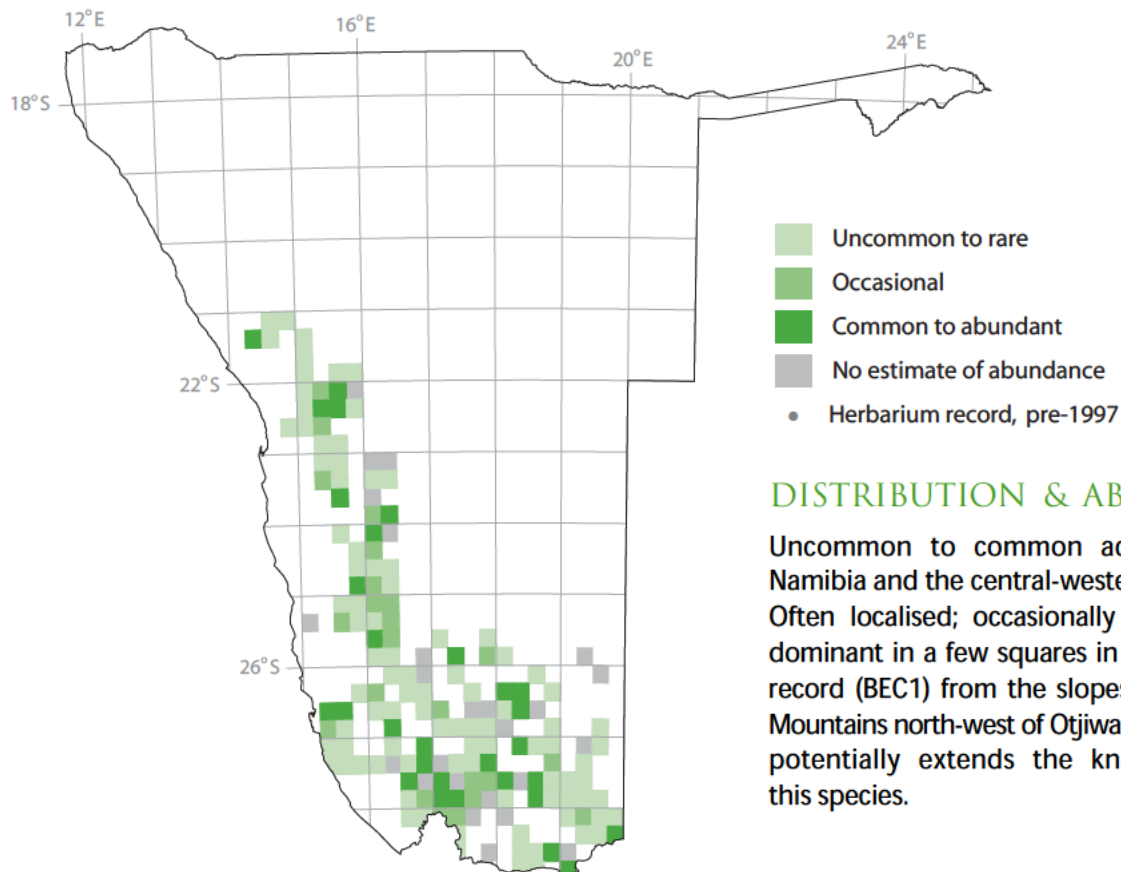
Kokerboom

Quiver tree (E); Köcherbaum (G);
||garas (K)

[397 records from 173 (16%) squares]



Single-stemmed tree, branching repeatedly into two to form a dense crown; usually sturdy. STEM succulent. BARK smooth and grey; older stem pale to deep yellow, rough, splitting and peeling in segments. LEAVES simple, succulent, in terminal rosettes; large, oblong, boat-shaped, grey-green to brown-green. FLOWERS tubular, bright yellow, on woody stalks carried above the leaf rosette.

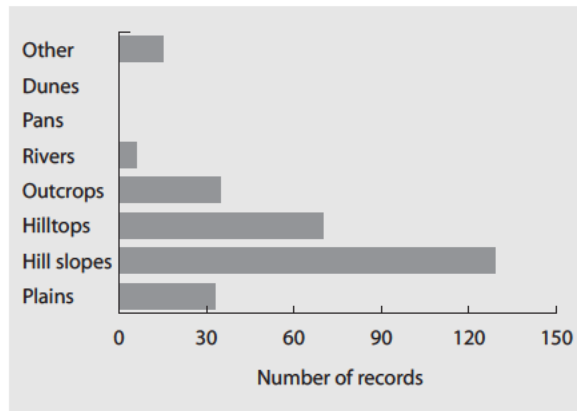


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Uncommon to common across southern Namibia and the central-western escarpment. Often localised; occasionally abundant and dominant in a few squares in the south. One record (BEC1) from the slopes of the Paresis Mountains north-west of Otjiwarongo (2016AD), potentially extends the known range of this species.

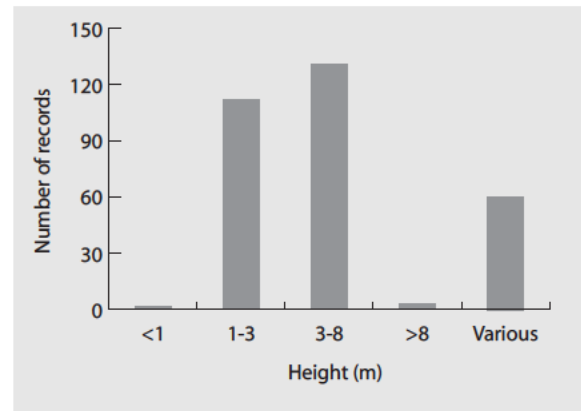
HABITAT

Rocky hillslopes and hilltops mainly, but also rocky outcrops and plains; sometimes on rocky outcrops in dunes, but never on sand.



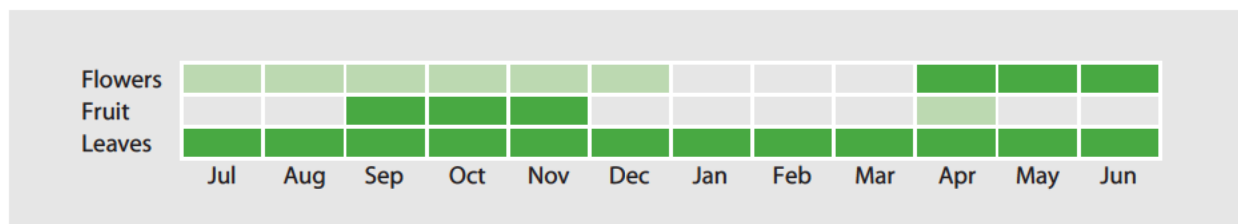
GROWTH FORM

Always a tree; generally 1–3 m, often 3–8 m, rarely over 8 m high. One exceptional, 6 m tall individual was recorded from the Usakos area (2115DC) with a trunk circumference of 6.3 m, a diameter of 2.3 m at the base, and a crown diameter of about 7 m (FRI2).



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS mainly April to June, but occasional records up until December. FRUIT September to November. LEAVES are present all year.



GENERAL

Many dead and dying plants were noted in 2717DC and 2615BD, but lots of young were noted in 2615CB. These plants are sometimes susceptible to scale insect. Old branches are used as quivers for arrows. Sociable Weavers often make nests in the trees, and woodpeckers nest in the trunk. Sheep eat the dry leaves on the ground. This species is very popular with the horticultural trade.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

The lack of young trees is a concern, as is the removal of mature plants for gardens. A recent study made on the health of the Namibian *Aloe dichotoma* population concluded that it might be susceptible to climate change (Foden 2002). Protected by the Nature Conservation Ordinance and listed as a CITES Appendix II species.