Antidesma rufescens
Mukoso
Water tassel-berry (E)
[7 records from 7 (<1%) squares]

Shrub or tree. Bark pale grey, soft; young branchlets green to rust-brown, densely woolly. Leaves simple, elliptic to obovate, up to 100 mm long and 50 mm wide; leathery, hairless, shiny; dark green above; pale green below. Inflorescence an elongate cluster. Flowers small, with an unpleasant foetid scent; male and female flowers on separate plants. Fruit berry-like, pendulous; initially green-white when young but gradually becoming red or black-purple when ripe.

Virtually identical to A. venosum, but lacks the hairy under-surface of the leaf.

DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE
Common along the eastern stretches of the Okavango River; uncommon to common in eastern Caprivi.

HABITAT
Along the banks of perennial rivers.

GROWTH FORM
A shrub or tree, mostly in the 1–3-m height class, but sometimes over 3 m high.

ANNUAL CYCLE
Flowers and fruit October, November and April. Leaves semi-deciduous.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS
None recorded.