

Azima tetraacantha

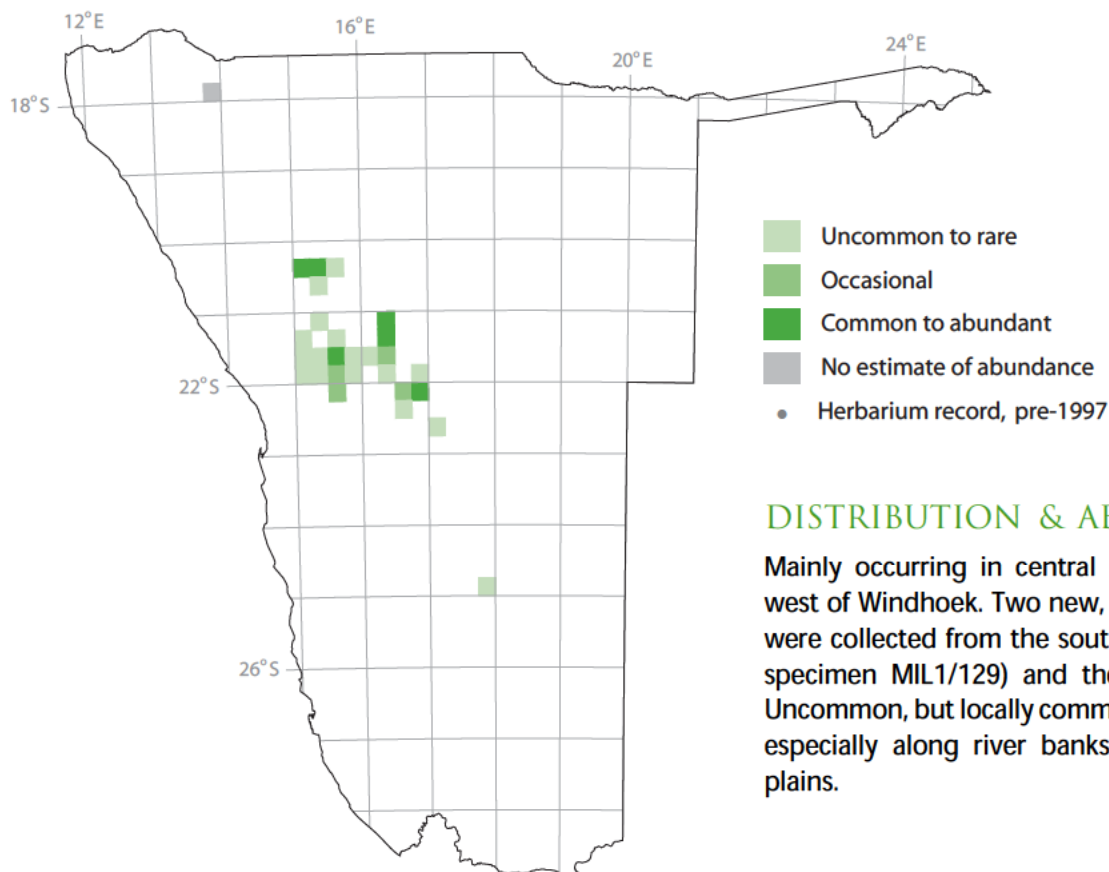
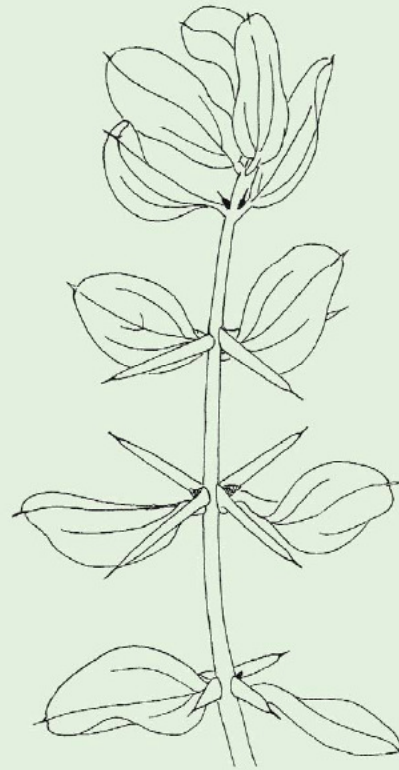
Four-thorns

Needle-bush (E); groendoring (A);
Gründorn (G);
onyarayongwe (= leopard's claw, H)

[51 records from 28 (3%) squares]

A **spiny, evergreen shrub** with a tendency to scramble. BRANCHLETS blue-green, often densely hairy; **with four sharp, axillary spines up to 50 mm long**. LEAVES simple, opposite, **with successive pairs at right angles to each other**; elliptic-oblong to almost round; **leathery**. FRUIT round, small; yellow to white when ripe.

Flowers and fruit are easily overlooked, but this plant cannot be confused with any other species.

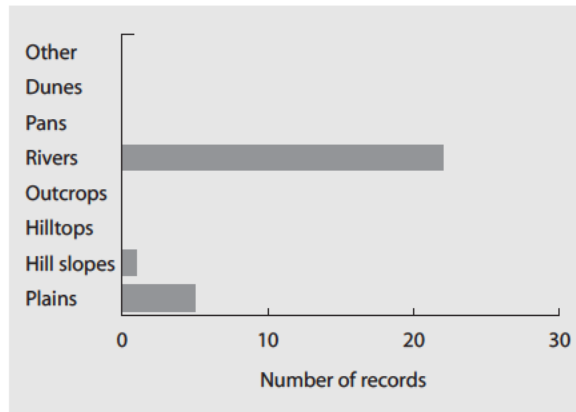


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Mainly occurring in central Namibia, north-west of Windhoek. Two new, isolated records were collected from the south (confirmed by specimen MIL1/129) and the north (CUR1). Uncommon, but locally common to abundant, especially along river banks and on flood-plains.

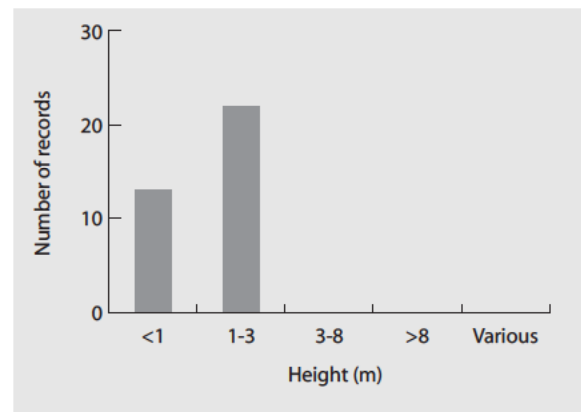
HABITAT

Mainly found on river banks, occasionally on plains. Also found in disturbed areas. This plant was found along 'most river banks in the Kunene Region' (BES1).



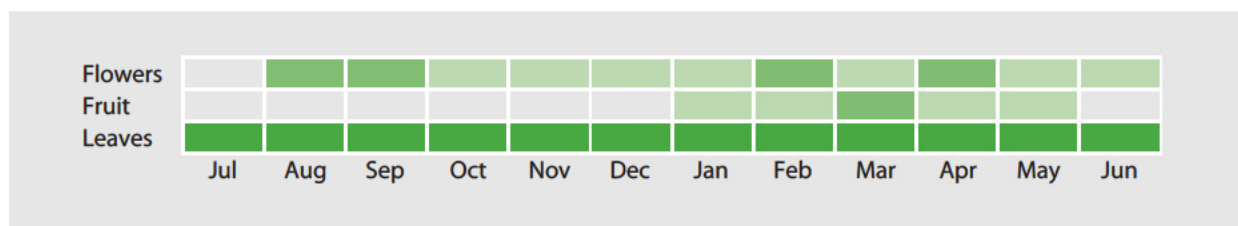
GROWTH FORM

Always a shrub, mostly in the 1–3-m height class. May be thicket-forming.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS from August to June, but never many records per month. FRUIT January to May. LEAVES evergreen, with only one record of a bare plant in October.



GENERAL

Browsed by unspecified animals, but imparts a strange flavour to milk and butter from animals that have eaten it. Possible horticultural potential as a hedge plant.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.

Azima tetracantha, leaves and thorns,
E. Ellinger

