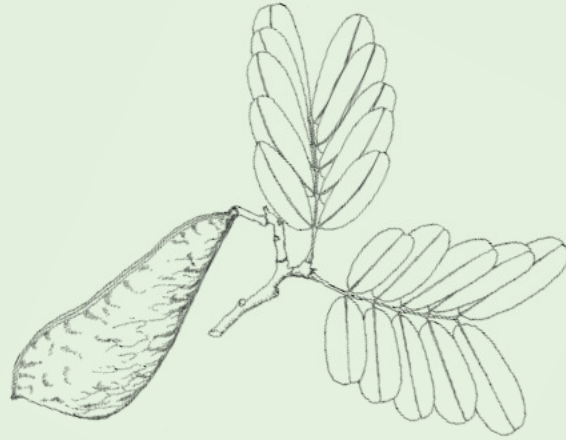


*Baikiaea plurijuga*

## Zambezi Teak

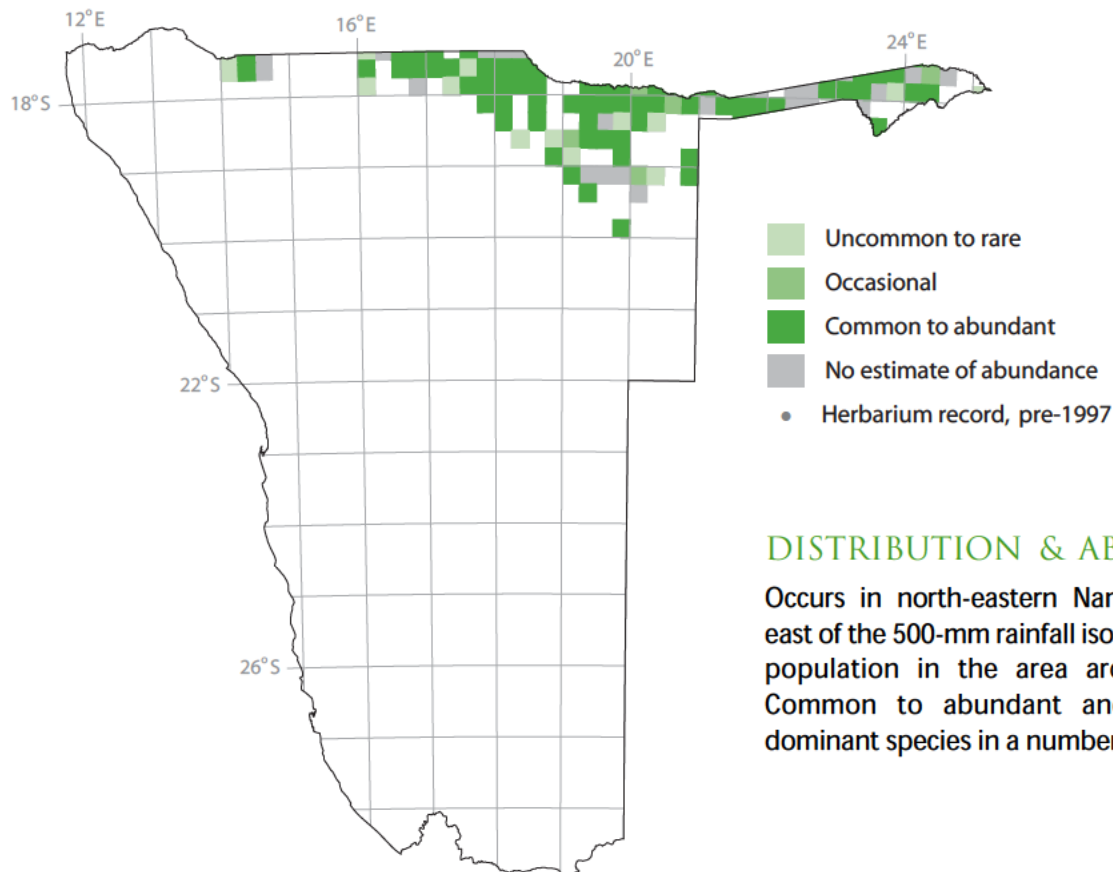
Mukusi (L); omupapa (O); uhahe (Rk, Rum); mukutji (T)

[182 records from 108 (10%) squares]



Deciduous tree with dense, spreading crown, up to 20 m high. BARK grey to dark brown, sometimes flaking off in longitudinal strips LEAVES compound, up to 140 mm long, with 4–6 leaflet pairs; leaflets opposite, leathery, oblong to narrowly elliptic; dark green above, pale green below, both surfaces downy; apex slightly indented with a short bristle. FLOWERS 20–30 mm long, **petals pink to mauve, crinkly**; buds with golden-brown, downy hairs. FRUIT a pod, up to 150 mm; **apex broader than the base, flattened, woody, covered with rust-brown, densely woolly hairs**, turning golden-brown when ripe.

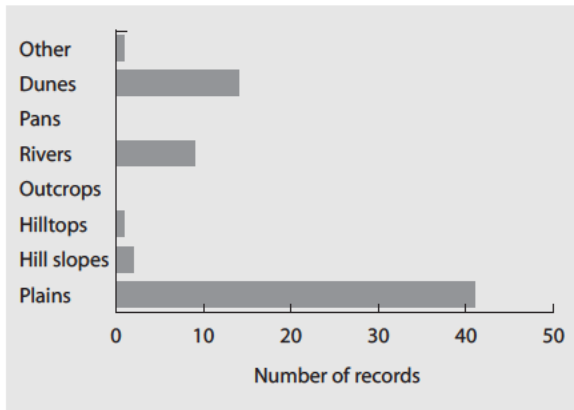
Flowers and pods are conspicuous and distinctive; without them the species may be confused with a number of others.

**DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE**

Occurs in north-eastern Namibia, generally east of the 500-mm rainfall isoyet, with a small population in the area around Ruacana. Common to abundant and one of the dominant species in a number of squares.

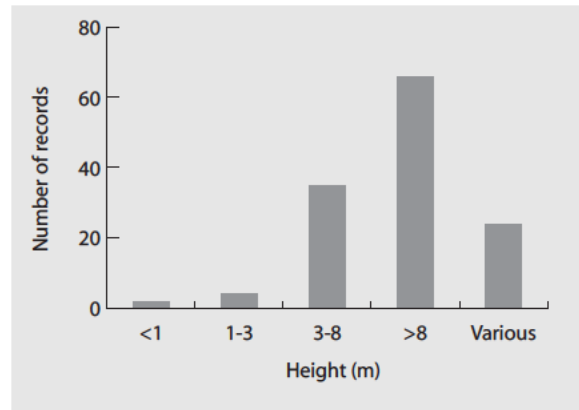
## HABITAT

Mostly on plains, also dunes and in dry riverbeds.  
Always on sand.



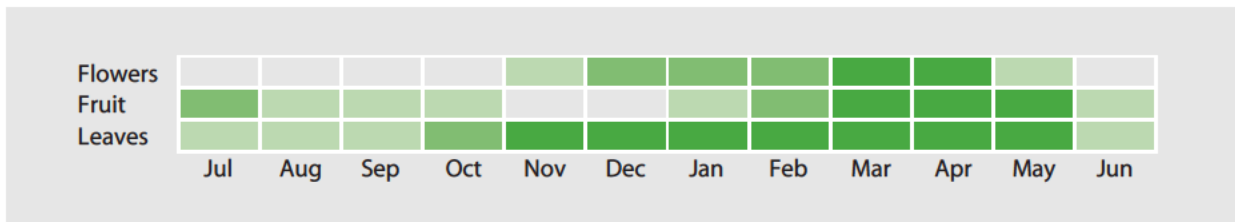
## GROWTH FORM

Mostly a tree of over 8 m, but many individuals in the 3–8-m category. A number of saplings under 3 m high and many shrubby forms due to frequent fire were recorded, especially in the Kavango Region.



## ANNUAL CYCLE

**FLOWERS** November to May, with a peak in March and April. **FRUIT** January to October, with a peak from March to May. **LEAVES** some all year round, mainly November to May; new leaves in October (few observations June to December).



## GENERAL

The wood is used for a variety of purposes including furniture, tools (hoes, axes) and carvings. Seeds used for ornamental crafts. The sap is used for eye ointment and for upset stomachs. Other parts of the plant are also used medicinally. This lovely shade tree with its beautiful flowers has horticultural potential in frost-free areas.

## CONSERVATION CONCERNS

Threatened by over-exploitation for timber, fencing and hut construction, as well as by clearing for homesteads and fields. Protected by forestry legislation. The population is declining and the tree classified as 'near threatened' according to the latest IUCN criteria (Loots 2005).