

# *Balanites angolensis*

= *Balanites welwitschii*

## Omutungambara

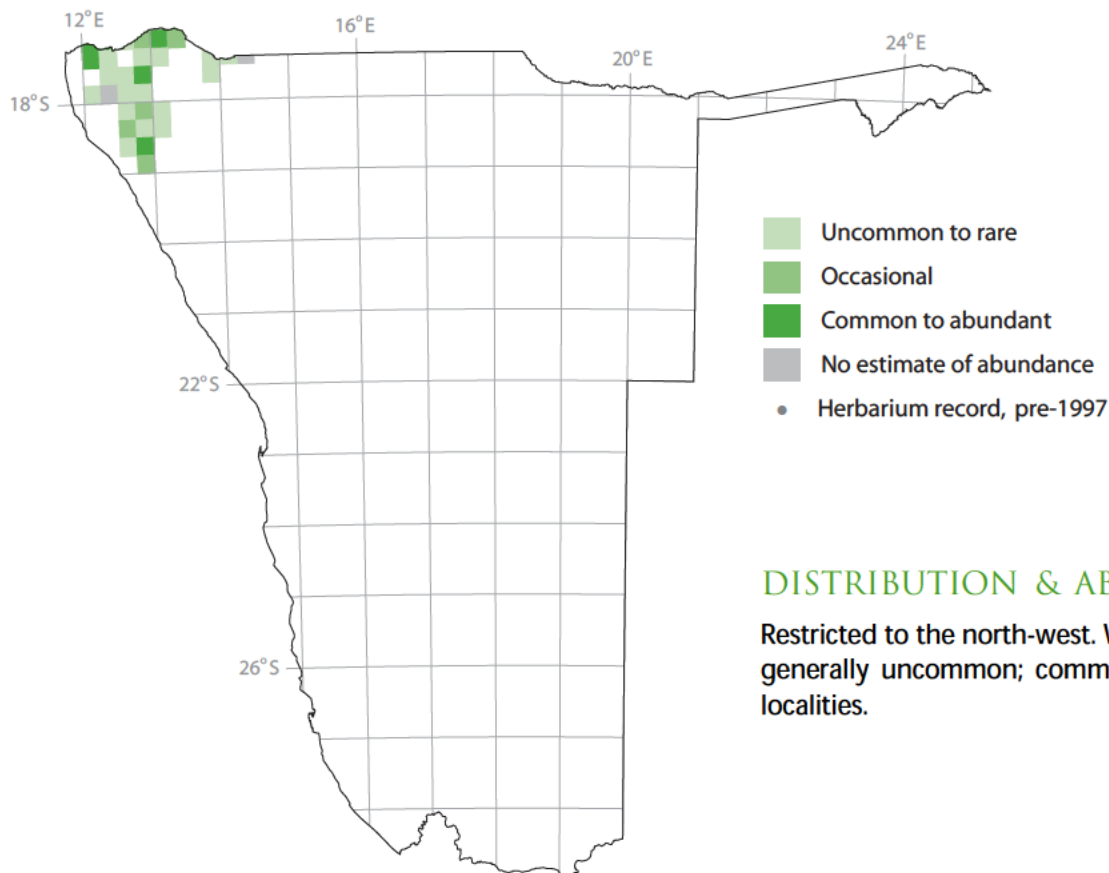
Angolan green-thorn (E)

[74 records from 33 (3%) squares]



Semi-deciduous tree or shrub. BARK rough, vertically grooved; **young branchlets green to yellow-green, densely downy**. THORNS **straight, slender, green to yellow**; up to 90 mm long. LEAVES bifoliate; asymmetric leaflets, ovate to oblanceolate, 12–17 mm long; leathery, yellow-green, with short sparse down; apex pointed; base tapering. FLOWERS small, pale green to whitish, in small axillary clusters. FRUIT **ovoid, orange when ripe**, c. 30 mm long.

Only one subspecies, *welwitschii*, found in Namibia.

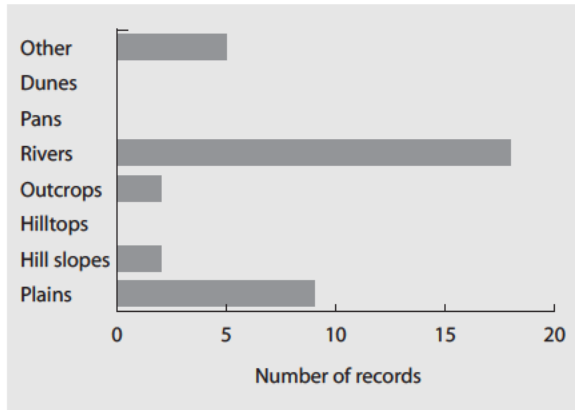


### DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Restricted to the north-west. Widespread, but generally uncommon; common in scattered localities.

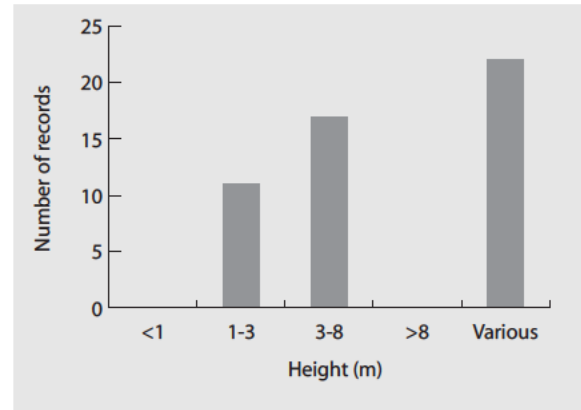
## HABITAT

Mainly found along dry river courses.



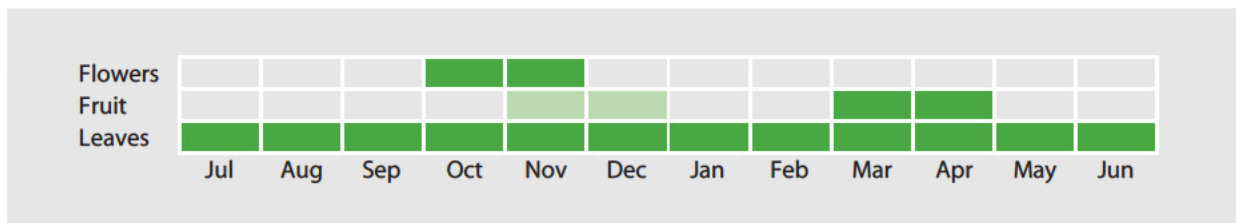
## GROWTH FORM

Trees (60% of records) or shrubs, mainly in the 3–8-m height category. Many stands had plants of mixed heights.



## ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS October and November. FRUIT some records in November and December, most from March to April. LEAVES recorded all year.



## GENERAL

Does not appear to be well-utilised. Although the fruit are said to be edible, they are quite bitter and usually show little evidence of harvesting by humans or animals. Roots are used medicinally.

**CONSERVATION CONCERNS:** None recorded.

*Balanites angolensis* subsp. *welwitschii*, fruit, B. Curtis

