

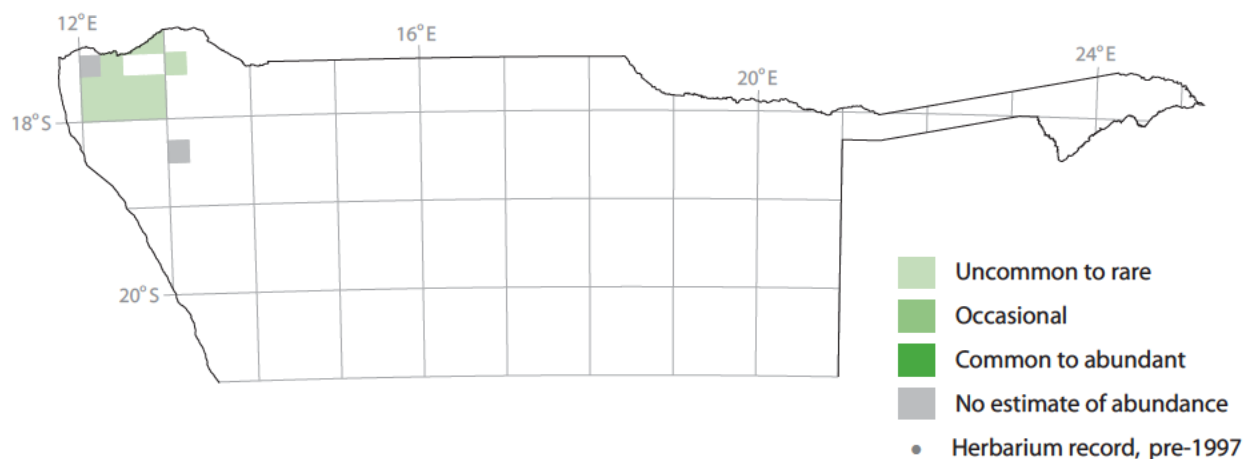
Boscia tomentosa

Hairy Shepherds-tree

[14 records from 12 (1%) squares]

Shrub or tree. BARK white, smooth; young branchlets yellow-green, **densely downy**. LEAVES simple, spirally arranged; **elliptic**, both surfaces yellow-green, with **white, downy covering visible with a hand-lens**; margin **fringed with hairs**; apex blunt to blunt and shallowly notched; base broadly tapering; petiole 5–9 mm long, downy. INFLORESCENCE **a terminal spray**, 50 mm long. FLOWERS small, green-yellow, petals absent. FRUIT spherical, almost hairless.

May have been mistakenly identified by atlasers as *Maerua schinzii*.



DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Uncommon to rare in the extreme north-west.

HABITAT

Rocky hills and outcrops, sometimes plains; on stony or loam substrates.

GROWTH FORM

A tree, mostly in the 3–8-m height class, sometimes 1–3 m high.

ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS January and April to July. FRUIT June and July. LEAVES presumably evergreen.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded. Classified as 'Lower Risk, near threatened' (Craven & Loots 2002).