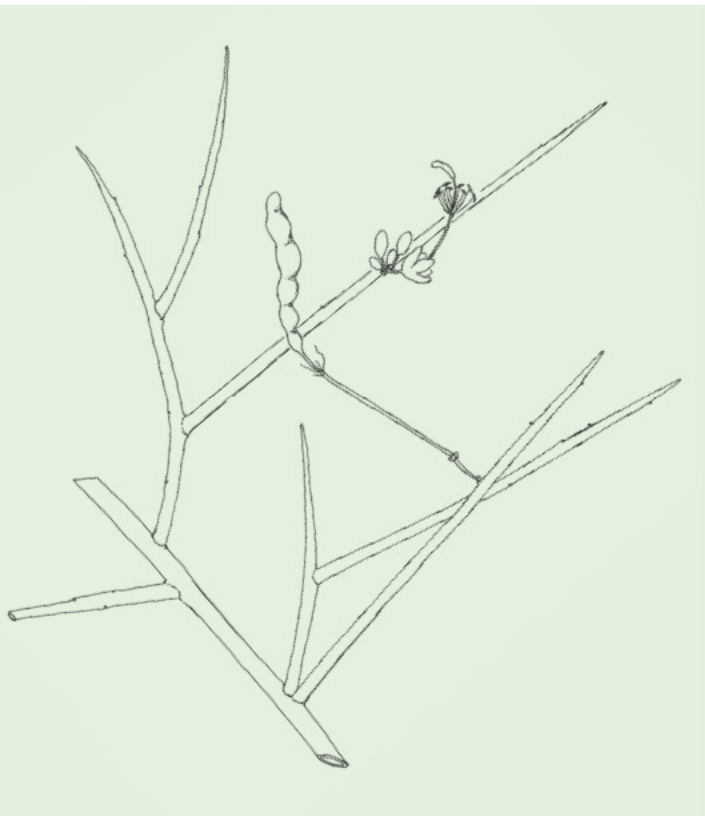


Cadaba aphylla

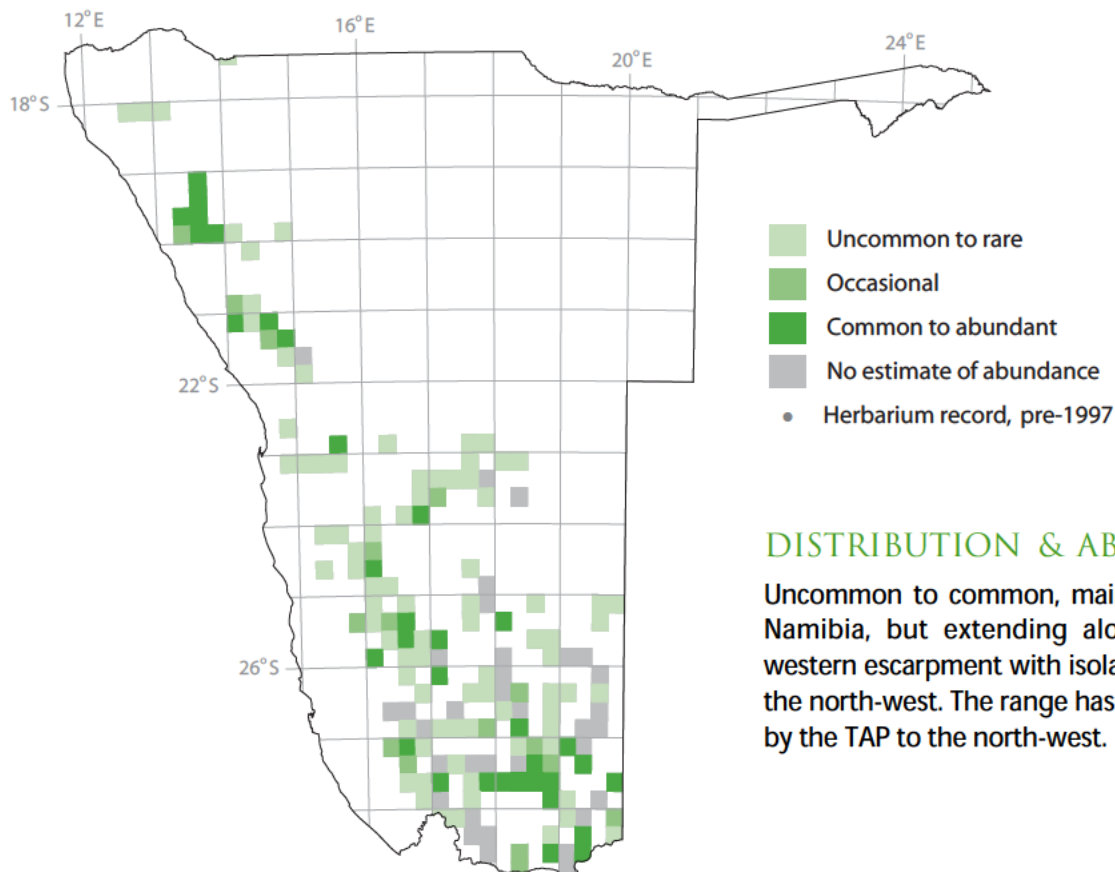
Swartstorm

Leafless wormbush (E); !tãss (K)

[280 records from 170 (16%) squares]



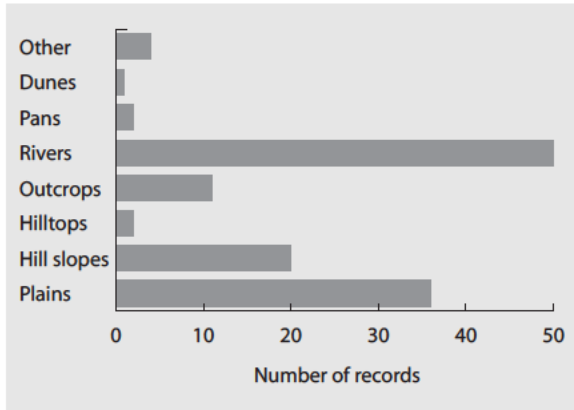
Dense **spiky shrub**, sometimes growing as a scrambler or strangler; branches hairless, pale to **dark blue-green** to purplish, **often leafless, twigs spinescent**. FLOWERS long; deep red-maroon, with a somewhat lacquered appearance. FRUIT fat, sausage-like, warty, may be sticky.

**DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE**

Uncommon to common, mainly in southern Namibia, but extending along the north-western escarpment with isolated localities in the north-west. The range has been extended by the TAP to the north-west.

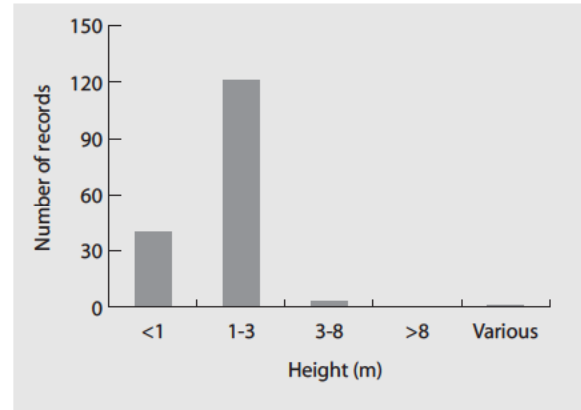
HABITAT

Along dry river courses, on plains and hill slopes. Mainly on gravel or stony substrates, occasionally sand.



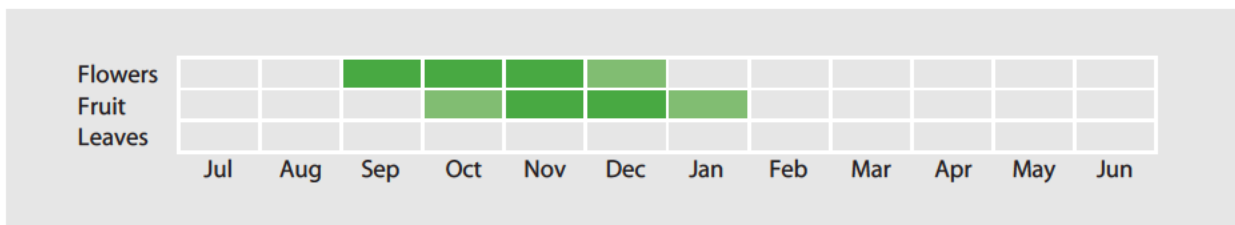
GROWTH FORM

A shrub of up to 3 m high, occasionally over 3 m; sometimes scrambling over other plants.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS mainly from September to November. FRUIT present from October to January.



GENERAL

Browsed by livestock and game; roots used medicinally. The fruit looks like worms, hence the English common name.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.

CAPPARACEAE | CAPER FAMILY

A family represented in Namibia by numerous species in five genera, four of which include woody species. Leaves are generally simple and alternate. Flowers have conspicuous stamens, often with a brush- or pompom-like appearance. The family is characterised by having the ovary carried on a distinct stalk, called a gynophore, which is visible in fruiting specimens as a segment between the top of the fruit and the proper fruit stalk. Several species are very similar, and identification is difficult without flowers or fruit. The commercial caper comes from the flower buds of *Capparis* spp. Many Namibian species provide important browse for both wild and domestic animals.