

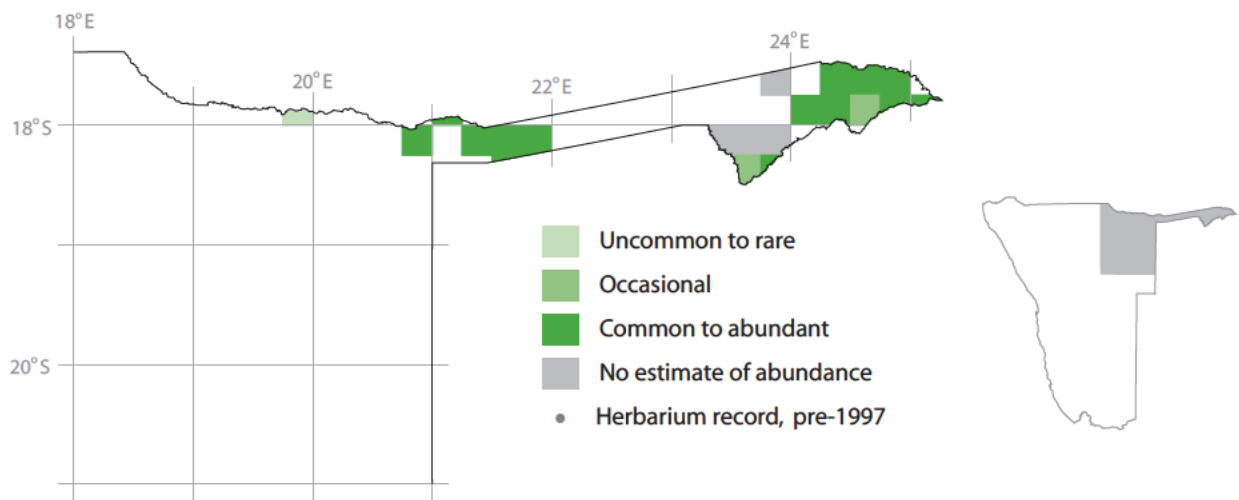
Capparis tomentosa

Woolly Caper-bush

Wollerige kapperbos (A);
mudyangwe (T)

[57 records from 22 (2%) squares]

Scrambler or robust shrub, sometimes tree-like. BRANCHES with a pair of sharp, velvety, hooked spines at every node on older branches. LEAVES simple, oblong to broadly elliptic, grey-green; **densely downy below**; margin **fringed with hairs**; apex blunt, often shallowly notched or with hair-like tip. FLOWERS relatively large, yellowish-green, with numerous conspicuous white to pinkish stamens. FRUIT large, round, hanging on a **sturdy stalk**; yellow-orange to brownish and shiny when ripe, with the seeds embedded in the flesh, turning black and remaining on the plant a long time.



DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Locally common in eastern Caprivi and along the Okavango River.

HABITAT

On sand hummocks or termite mounds on floodplains, along river banks and on plains.

GROWTH FORM

A shrub in the 1-3-m height class, sometimes over 3 m; often scrambling into other trees and sometimes completely covering the supporting tree. One record of a plant up to 10 m in *Piliostigma thonningii* (CUR1, 1724DC).

ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS single records from July to October, with old flowers recorded in January and May. FRUIT

September to May, but mostly February and May. LEAVES few records in winter because few atlassers were active in winter; bare plants recorded in May.

GENERAL

Tends to dominate overgrazed areas; browsed by game, but also reported to be poisonous, especially the roots. Believed to have many magical and medicinal properties.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.