

Oncoba spinosa

Munzenze

Snuff-box tree, fried-egg flower (E)

[3 records from 2 squares]

A spiny shrub or small tree. LEAVES ovate-elliptic, leathery; dark, glossy green; coarsely toothed margin. FLOWERS showy, white with a central mass of golden-yellow stamens. FRUIT a round, hard-shelled, reddish-brown capsule.

Three records from eastern Caprivi (1724DC) and on the Okavango River (1821BA). There are earlier herbarium records from six additional squares, including Impalila Island. A shrub or tree in the 1–3-m and 3–8-m height classes on the banks of perennial rivers. FLOWERS recorded in September and February. FRUIT recorded in November, December, January, February and May.

Combretum apiculatum

Kudu-bush

Koedoebos (A); Kudubusch (G); omumbuti (H); #óó.b/s (K); kalanga; mumpaumpa (L); omunaluko (O)

Shrub or tree. LEAVES with successive pairs set at right angles to each other; broadly elliptic, up to 110 mm long; **leathery, margin undulate; apex abruptly pointed, often twisted**. FLOWERS cream-coloured to yellow with a strong, pleasant scent. FRUIT usually four-winged (can vary from 3–6); ovoid to almost round, c. 30 mm, mustard-yellow central part; wings papery, greenish with pale to dark purple tints.

There are two subspecies in Namibia, which are easily distinguished by their leaves. By far the more common and widespread is subsp. *apiculatum*, thus all records not specifically identified as subsp. *leutweinii* have been assigned to *apiculatum*. Data for annual cycle have been combined; all other data for the two subspecies are presented separately.

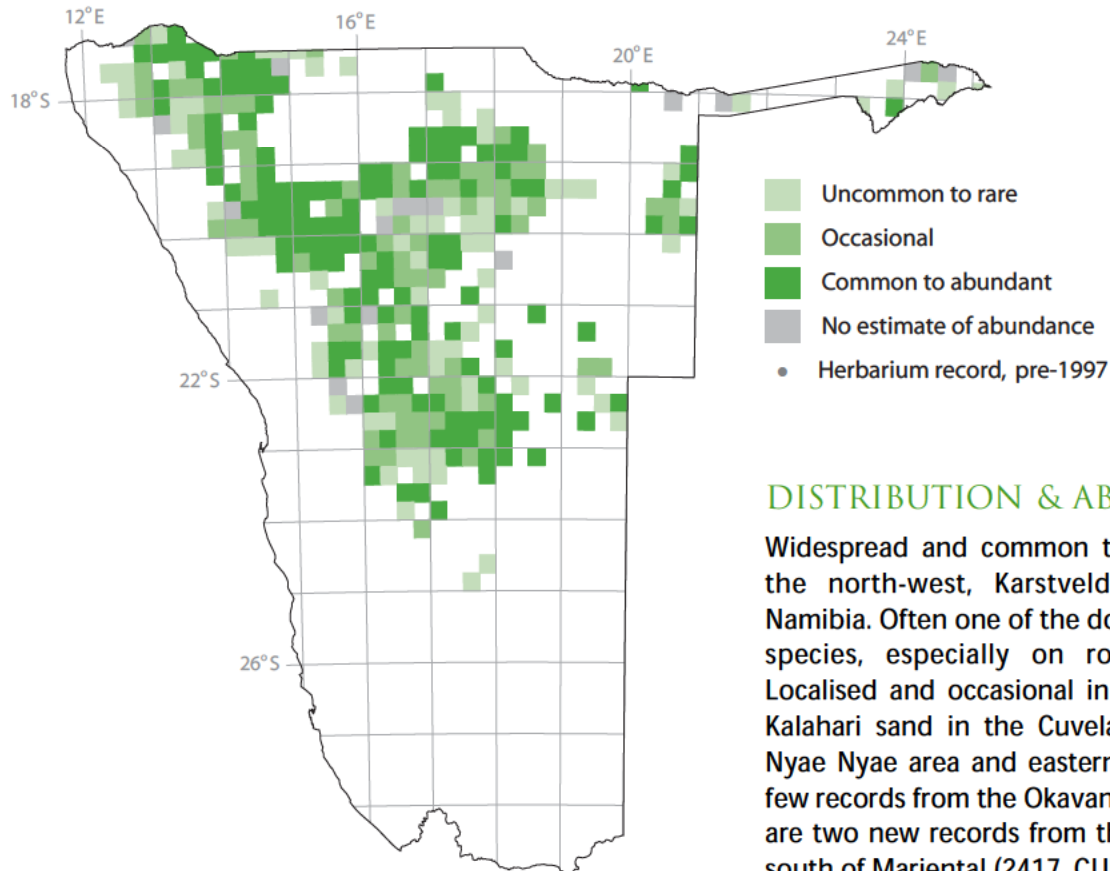


COMBRETACEAE

C. apiculatum subsp.
apiculatum

[1,119 records from 319 (30%) squares]

LEAVES both surfaces **bright green to yellow-green, hairless, shiny, sticky.**



DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

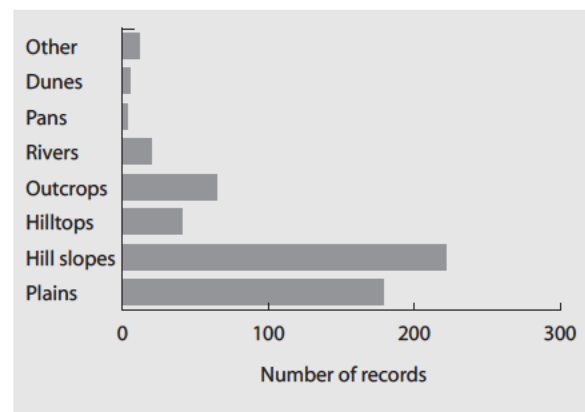
Widespread and common to abundant in the north-west, Karstveld, and central Namibia. Often one of the dominant woody species, especially on rocky outcrops. Localised and occasional in areas of deep Kalahari sand in the Cuvelai, central-east, Nyae Nyae area and eastern Caprivi and a few records from the Okavango River. There are two new records from the Lower River, south of Mariental (2417, CUR1 and MAN1).

HABITAT

Found in all habitats, but most often on hillsides and plains. Also on rocky outcrops in the west and central areas, and along dry rivers in the north-west. Grows on various substrates, including granite, calcrete, dolomite, basalt, mica schist, as well as gravel and sand.

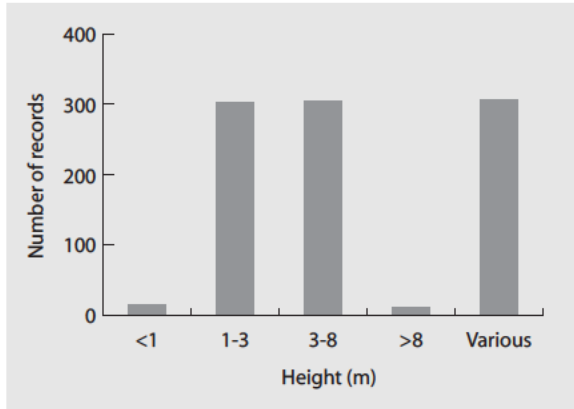
CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.



GROWTH FORM

Generally a shrub or shrubby tree up to 8 m high; occasionally, a tree of over 8 m. Often in stands of mixed height.



GENERAL

Heavily browsed by kudu, giraffe, rhino and other game, as well as cattle, often resulting in stunting; elephant eat the bark. Produces an edible but not very desirable gum. The leaves are used medicinally; the bark for tanning leather. The wood is termite resistant and used in kraal construction, for making pestles and stirring implements, for reinforcing gourds used as butter-churns, and for fuel.

Makes an attractive, frost-resistant, drought-hardy garden plant that is ideal for Windhoek as it tolerates mica schist. Might encroach in areas where other bush species have been removed (BES1).

COMBRETACEAE | COMBRETUM AND TERMINALIA FAMILY

This large, mainly tropical family is characterised by having four- to five-winged fruit and clusters of generally small flowers, often without petals. The leaves are always simple, opposite or in whorls of three, often with characteristic scales. The bark of the stems or twigs often peels in long fibres.



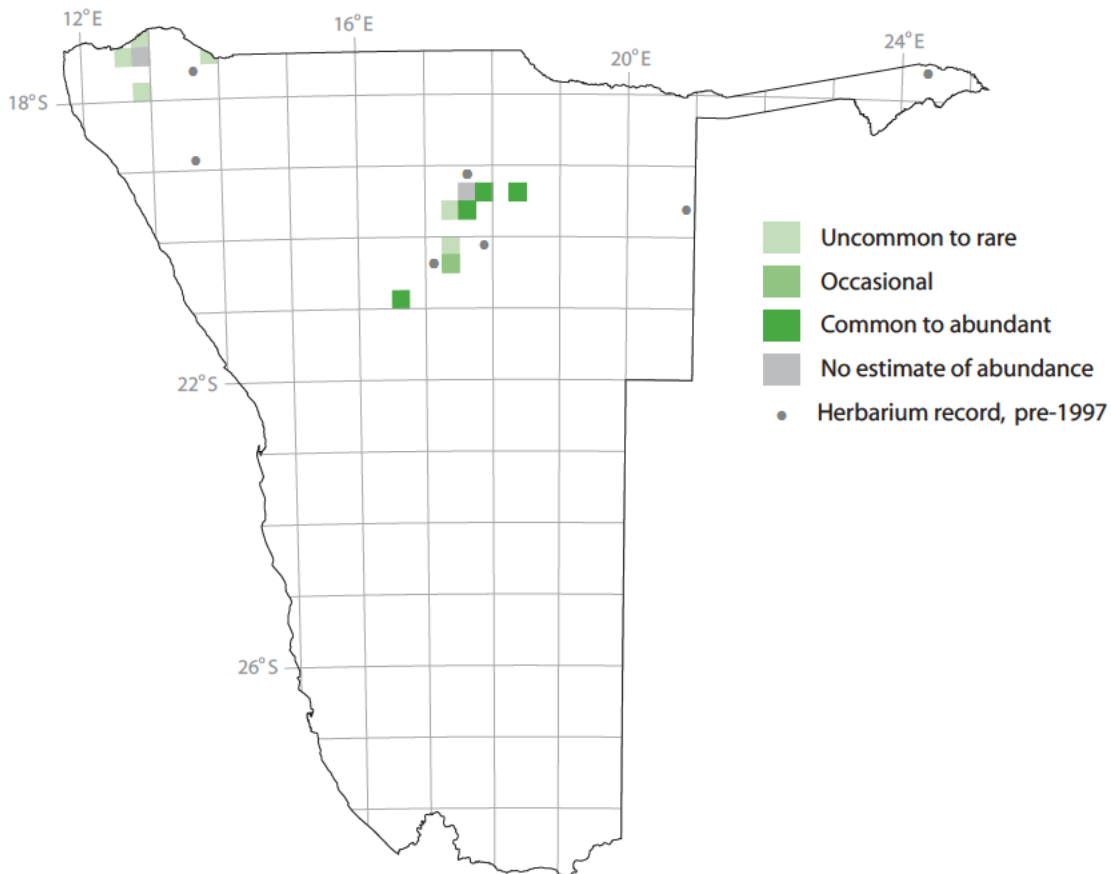
Combretum oxystachyum inflorescences, B. Curtis

C. apiculatum subsp. *leutweinii*

[28 records from 13 (1%) squares]

LEAVES **dull green, matt, velvety, often almost round.**
FRUIT **hairy.**

Recorded from a few localities, mostly in the Waterberg area and eastern Karstveld, as well as just south of the Kunene River. There are single herbarium specimens from the eastern Caprivi, Nyae Nyae area, and 1813DC that were not substantiated by TAP records. Found on hillsides, plains and plateaux. Uncommon in the north-east, but common in the Karstveld and Waterberg area. More commonly recorded as trees than subsp. *apiculatum* was.

**ANNUAL CYCLE (both subspecies combined)**

FLOWERS from September to March, but mainly October to December. FRUIT found throughout the year, but most prolifically from January to June. LEAVES mainly December to June; most plants bare or with old leaves from July to September, and new leaves in October and November.

