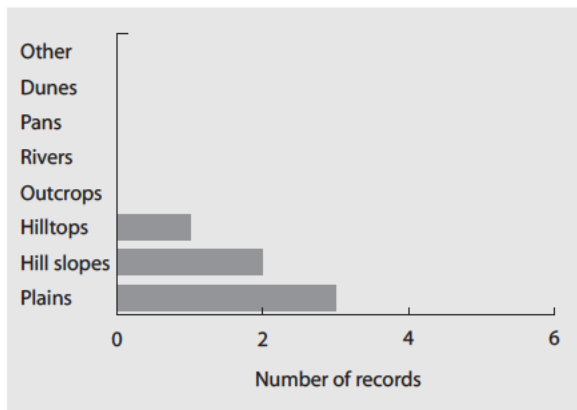


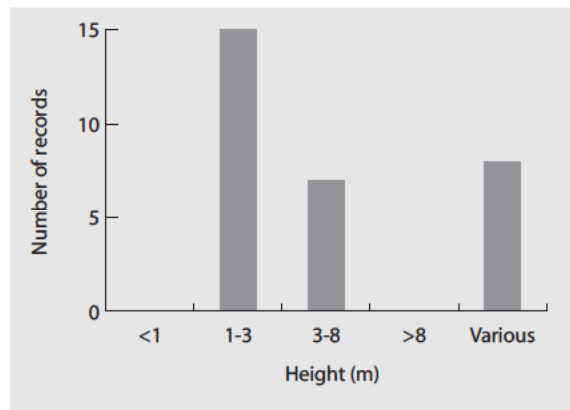
HABITAT

Mainly found on plains, on deep Kalahari sand.



GROWTH FORM

Mostly a shrub in the 1–3-m height class, sometimes over 3 m. Occasionally scrambling. Thicket-forming in places.



ANNUAL CYCLE

Observations were mostly made in March and April, with one or two observations in May, June, December and January; records of flowers and fruit were combined with earlier records from the herbarium. FLOWERS recorded from December to May. FRUIT March to July. LEAVES present in all months of observation, with leaves turning colour in April and young leaves in May.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.

Combretum collinum

Variable Combretum

Mupupu (Rk, T); otjindanda (H); mutobo (L); omupupwaheke (O)

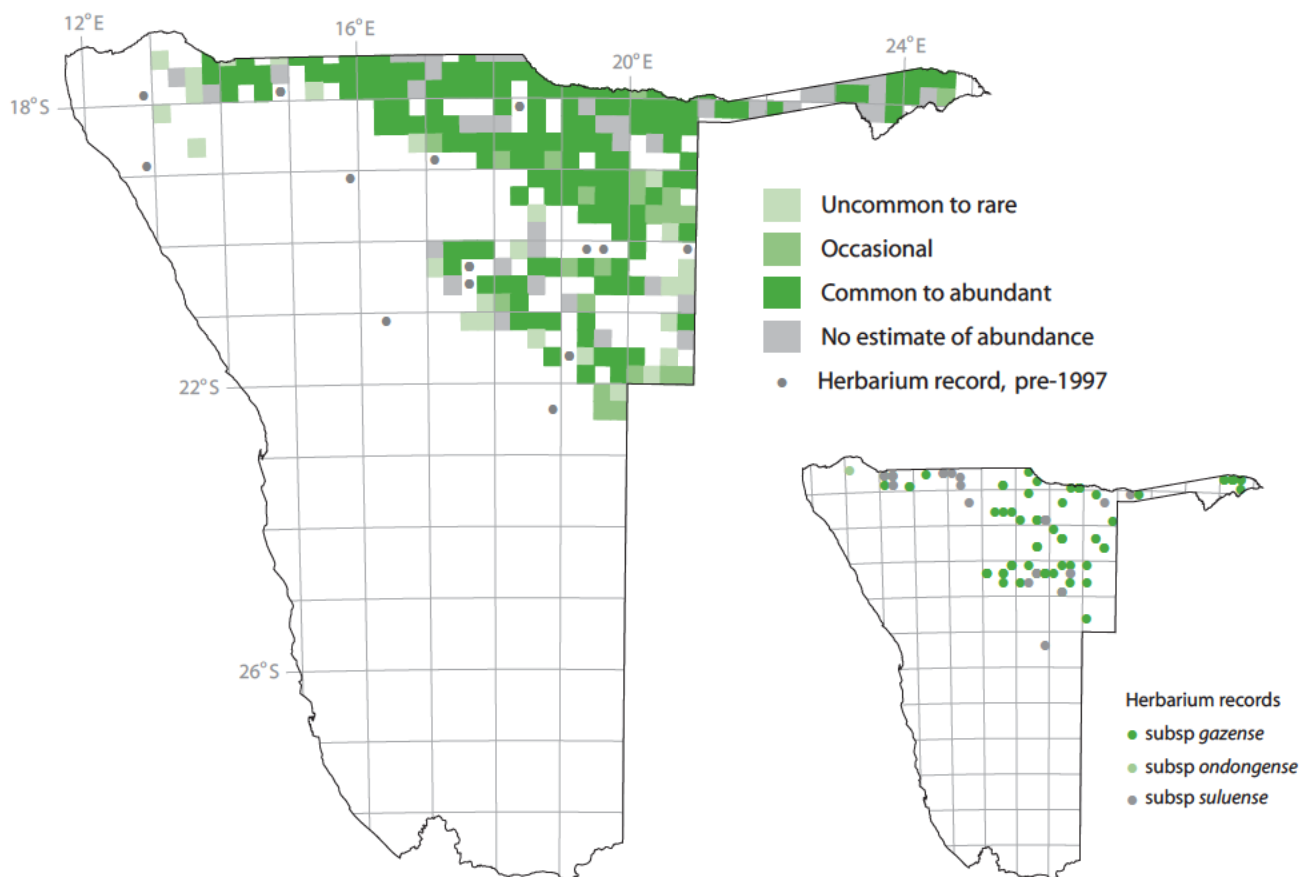
[543 records from 236 (22%) squares]

Shrub or tree, with a **rounded, drooping crown**. BARK grey to dark grey, occasionally flaking off in fibrous strips to expose a **reddish underbark**. LEAVES very **variable** in shape, up to 130 mm long; dark green to yellow-green above; petiole quite long and slender. FLOWERS tiny, cream-coloured to yellow. FRUIT four-winged, broadly ovate to spherical, up to 50 mm; yellow-rust to deep rust-red; wings yellow-brown to rust.

Flowers and fruit are conspicuous. There are three subspecies, which may be differentiated by the hairiness of the leaves and the fruit, thus it is not possible to identify the subspecies without pods. The most common one is subsp. *gazense*, and the majority of records for which the subspecies was not specified probably belong to this subspecies. The data for all three subspecies have been combined, unless stated otherwise.

The subspecies of *Combretum collinum*

	CHARACTERISTICS	TAP RECORDS
<i>C. collinum</i> subsp. <i>gazense</i> Bicoloured Variable-combretum	Leaf hairy below, fruit hairless	140 records from 96 (9%) squares
<i>C. collinum</i> subsp. <i>ondongense</i> Kalahari Variable-combretum	Leaf hairless below, fruit hairless	47 records from 39 (4%) squares
<i>C. collinum</i> subsp. <i>suluense</i> Weeping Variable-combretum	Leaf hairless below, fruit densely hairy	5 records from 4 (<0.5%) squares

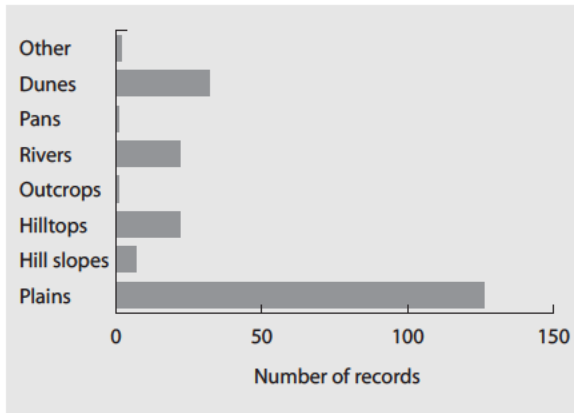


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Subspecies *gazense* is common and abundant in places in north-eastern Namibia, extending westwards to the Ruacana area and south-eastwards to the 'bend of Botswana' (2120), where it is occasional. Often one of the dominant species in the north-central and Waterberg areas. Subspecies *ondongense* is common to abundant in scattered localities within the same distribution pattern, with no TAP records and only one herbarium record from Caprivi. Subspecies *suluense* is occasional in a very restricted distribution in the north-west.

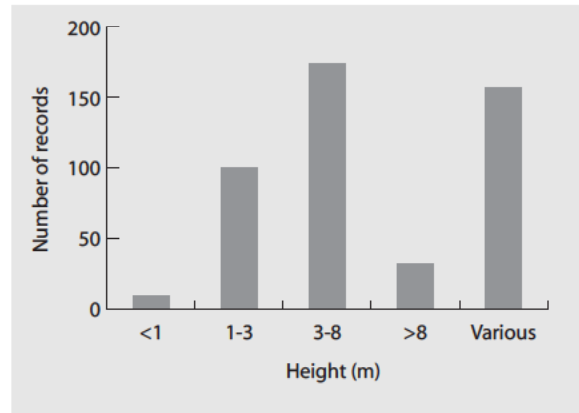
HABITAT

Found in various habitats, but predominantly on plains; also on dunes and along rivers in the north-east, and on plateaux and hilltops on the north-central plateau. Subspecies *ondongense* is more often on dunes than plains. Subspecies *suluense* found on rocky outcrops and hill slopes. The substrate is always sand or sandy loam, except for subspecies *suluense*.



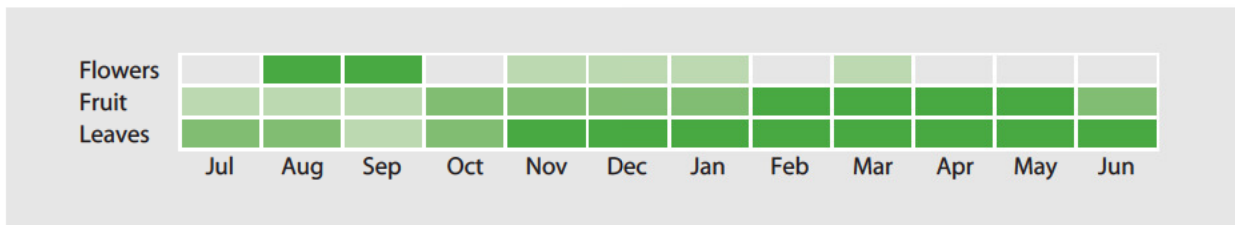
GROWTH FORM

Mostly a tree of up to 8 m but often a shrub in the 1–3-m height class. Occasionally a tree over 8 m. Subspecies *ondongense* is most often a shrub of up to 8 m, and subspecies *gazense*, a tree up to 8 m.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS mainly August and September, with individual to a few records from July to March. FRUIT all year round, but mainly from February to May; often the previous season's fruit. LEAVES were recorded all year round, with many bare plants from July to October, and leaves turning colour from May; new leaves produced from October to December.



GENERAL

The gum is edible and used medicinally, but not produced in large quantities; the roots are chewed as a cold remedy. The wood is used for fuel and for poles, although it is not termite-resistant.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.

