

Combretum engleri

Sand Combretum

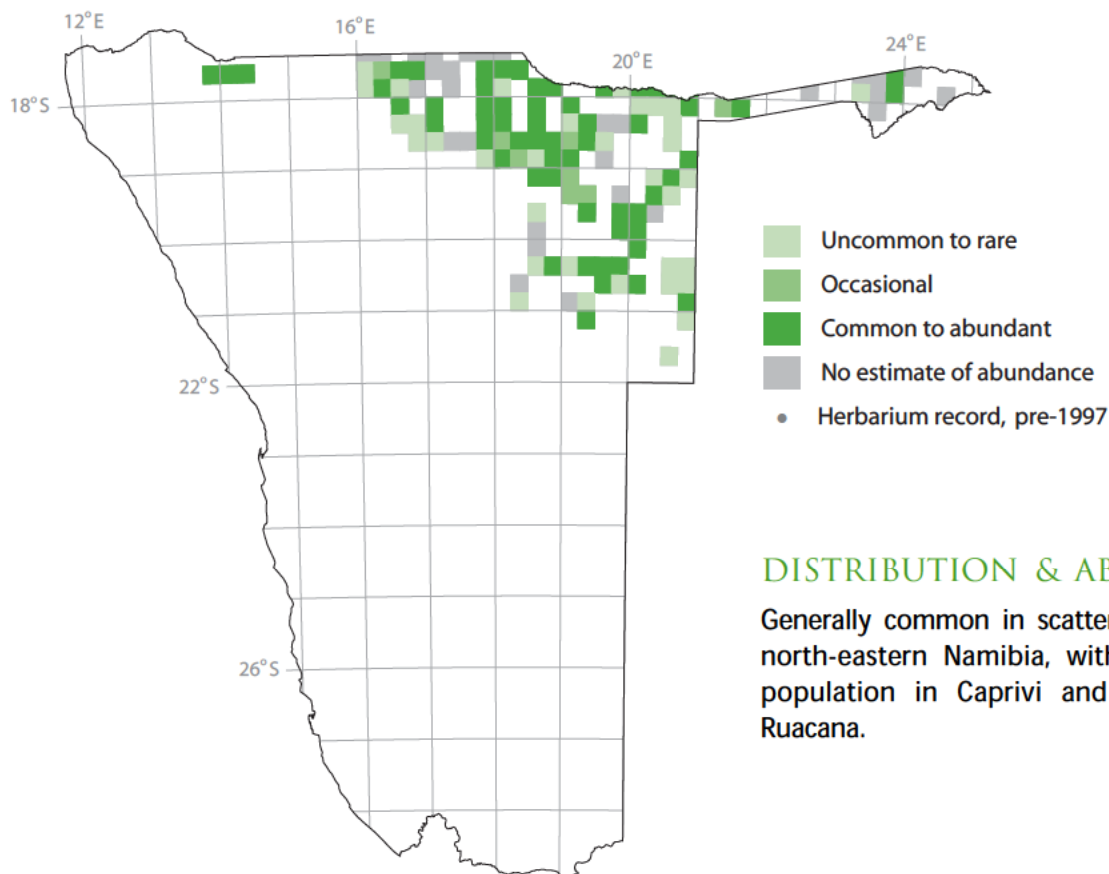
Kleinsandboswilg (A);
Sandbuschweide (G); rutapa (L);
ruputa (Rk, Rum); ruputwi (T)

[177 records from 131 (12%) squares]



A neat, compact shrub or small tree. LEAVES **small, thinly textured; both surfaces bright green, shiny, hairless; folded along the midrib.** FLOWERS pale yellow, in small clusters. FRUIT four-winged, elliptic, larger than leaves; **bright green** to yellowish becoming golden brown.

This plant is easily recognised by its shiny green, folded leaves and bright green, young fruit.

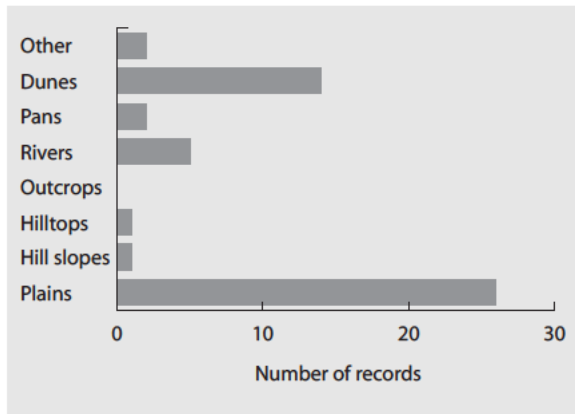


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Generally common in scattered localities in north-eastern Namibia, with only a small population in Caprivi and another near Ruacana.

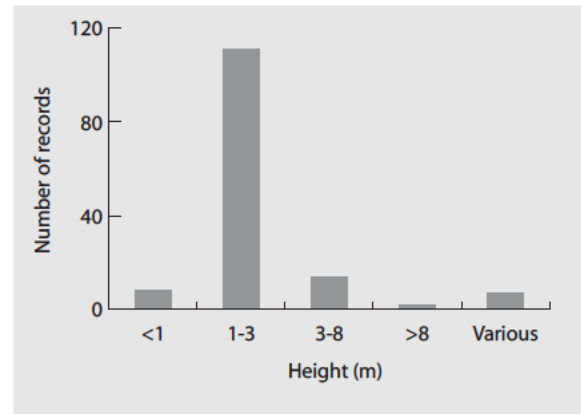
HABITAT

Found mainly on plains and dunes; always on sand.



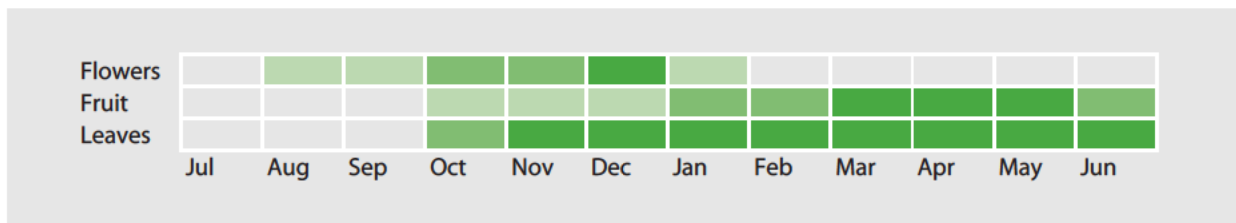
GROWTH FORM

Mostly a shrub up to 3 m high, sometimes over 3 m; occasionally a tree.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS mostly in December, but may start in August and carry on till January. FRUIT can be found all year, but mainly from March to May; those recorded from July to November are mainly the previous season's pods. LEAVES bare from July to September, with new leaves in October.



GENERAL

Heavily browsed in places. Utensils, such as cups and knife handles, are carved from the wood; thin branches are used for weaving calabash carriers or strengthening baskets. Of horticultural potential due to its attractive foliage, neat shape and contrasting fruit.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.