

Combretum hereroense

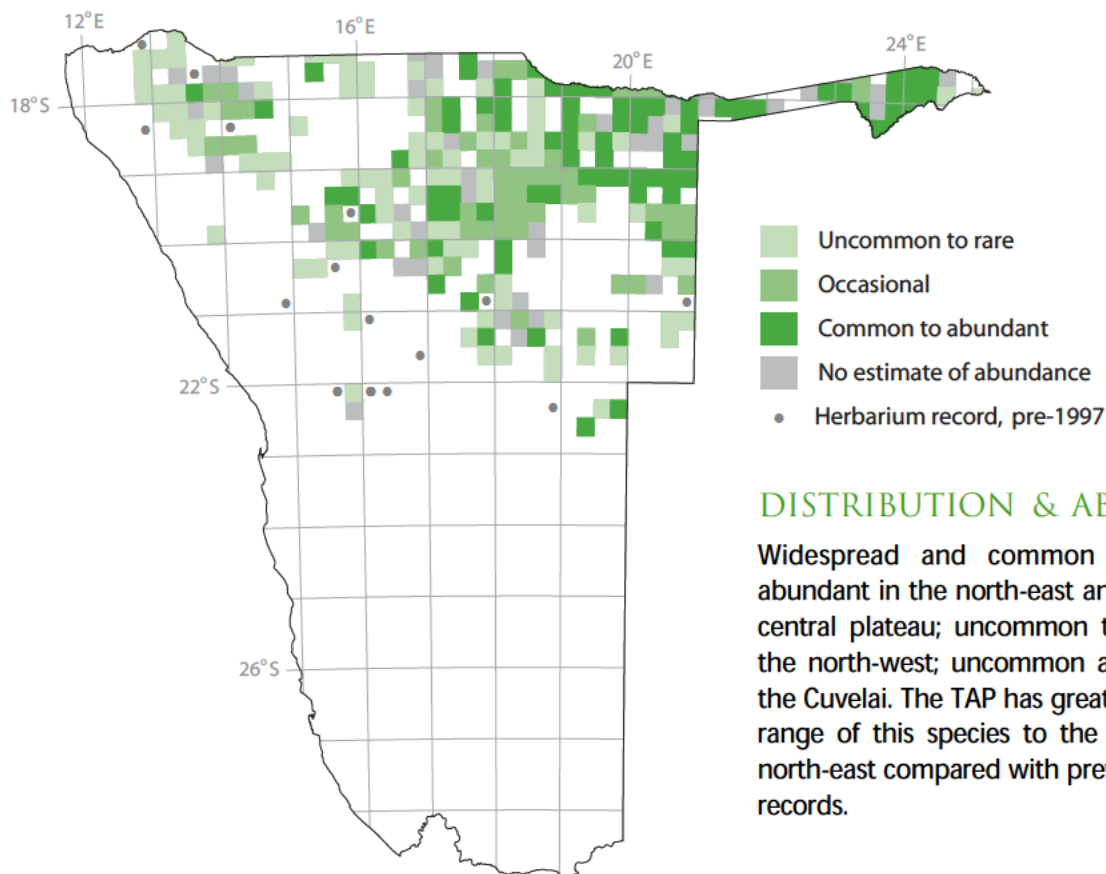
Mutumba

Mouse-eared combretum (E);
kierieklapper (A); !kabe (J); mububu (L)

[771 records from 284 (27%) squares]



Shrub or tree. BRANCHLETS with **dense, grey, finely woolly covering when young**. LEAVES broadly elliptic to obovate, **generally small, leathery**; grey-green to yellow-green, with **dense downy covering**, often red-tinged; veins prominent; **apex pointed or notched**. FLOWERS cream-coloured, in short spikes. FRUIT four-winged, small, densely woolly with dense covering of yellow and red scales; margin of wings often undulate.

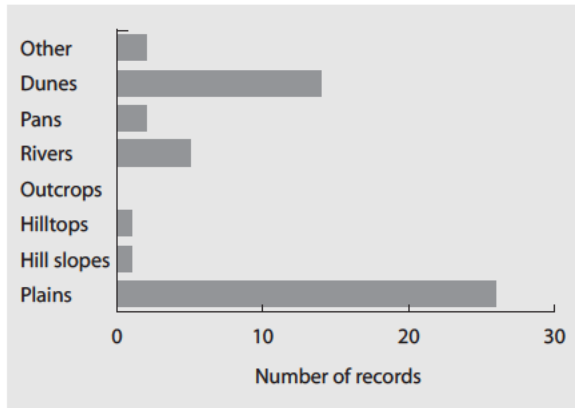


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Widespread and common to sometimes abundant in the north-east and on the north-central plateau; uncommon to occasional in the north-west; uncommon and scattered in the Cuvelai. The TAP has greatly increased the range of this species to the north-west and north-east compared with previous herbarium records.

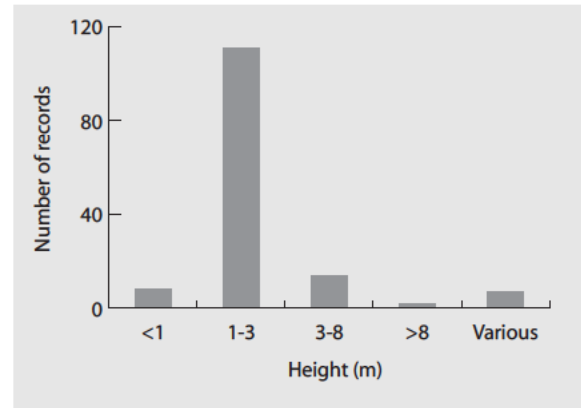
HABITAT

Found in a wide variety of habitats, but mostly on plains and along dry watercourses; around pans in the central-east and north-east. Grows on a wide variety of soil types, including sand, clay and calcrete.



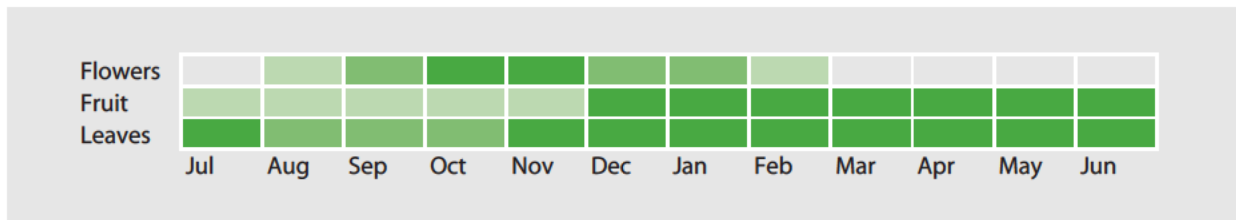
GROWTH FORM

Mostly a shrub up to 3 m high, sometimes a tree up to 8 m, rarely over 8 m. Forms thickets in places.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS mainly October and November, but may start as early as July or go on until May in some years; rain-dependent. FRUIT present all year, but from August to November they are generally from the previous season. LEAVES throughout the year, with some bare trees from August to October.



GENERAL

Browsed by game such as kudu, eland, giraffe and rhino, as well as by goats. The fruit and gum are edible. The wood is used for fencing and building, and the handles of various implements, as well as for fire-wood. The branches are pliable, and used to make musical instruments. The roots and leaves are used medicinally.

This plant sometimes colonises disturbed areas. It is of horticultural potential, as it is easily grown from seed, relatively fast-growing and frost-tolerant. Occasionally parasitised by *Tapinanthus* spp.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.