

Combretum mossambicense

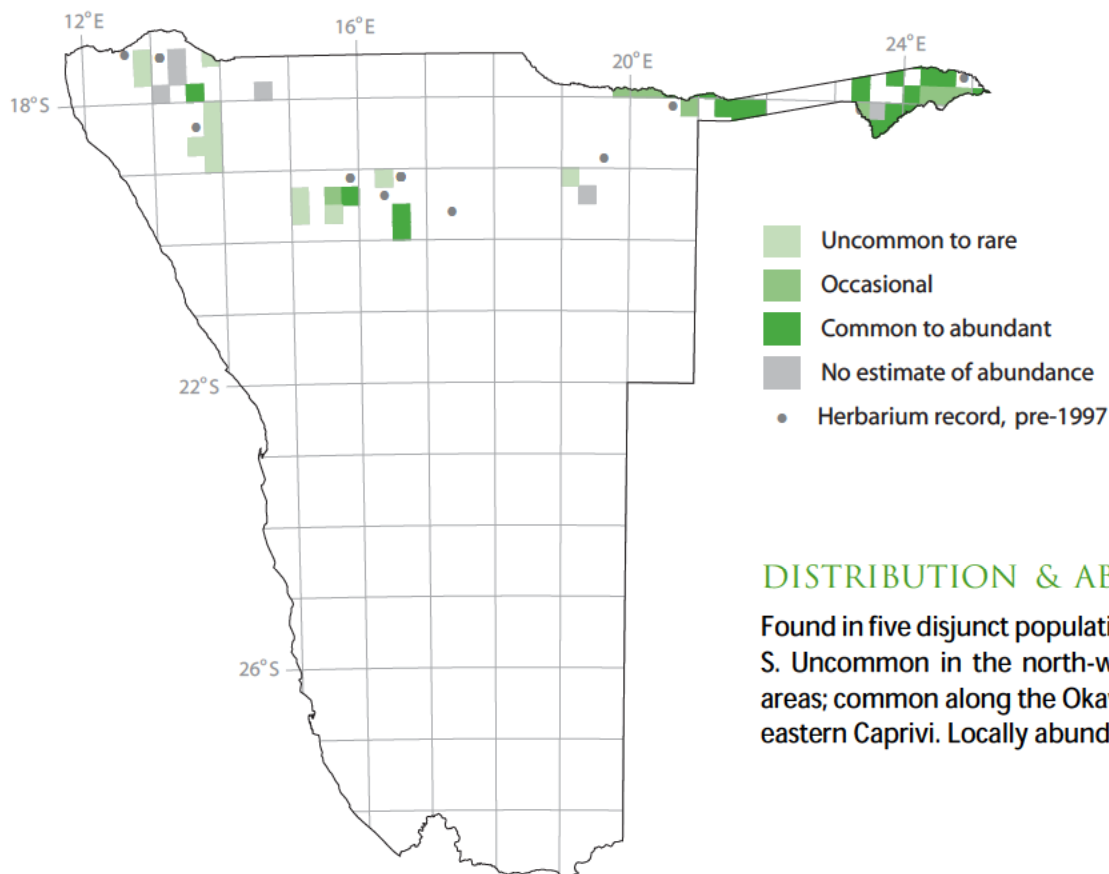
Knobbly Combretum

Knoppiesklimop (A, G); omutuuruungu (H); mubesuba (L); mungongangonga (Rk, Rum, T)

[120 records from 51 (5%) squares]



Scrambling shrub or liana. BRANCHES long, twining, often with pairs (occasionally three) of rigid, downward-pointing spines or slightly protruding knobs formed by the persistent petioles of fallen leaves. LEAVES broadly elliptic, large, leathery; dark green and hairless above; pale green with dense silvery down and prominent veins below. FLOWERS white; stamens white with orange to reddish anthers; in large clusters. FRUIT mostly with five wings, but quite often four-winged; wings straw-coloured, downy to densely woolly.

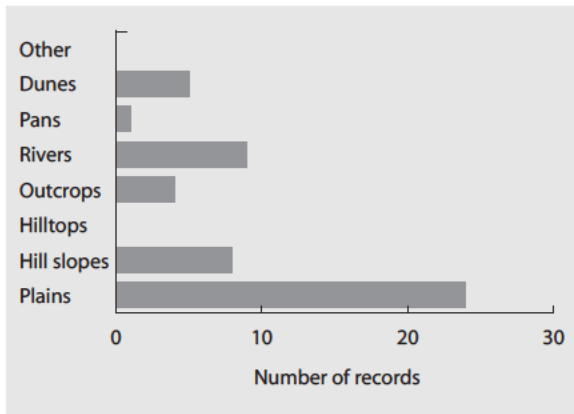


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Found in five disjunct populations north of 20° S. Uncommon in the north-west and central areas; common along the Okavango River and eastern Caprivi. Locally abundant in places.

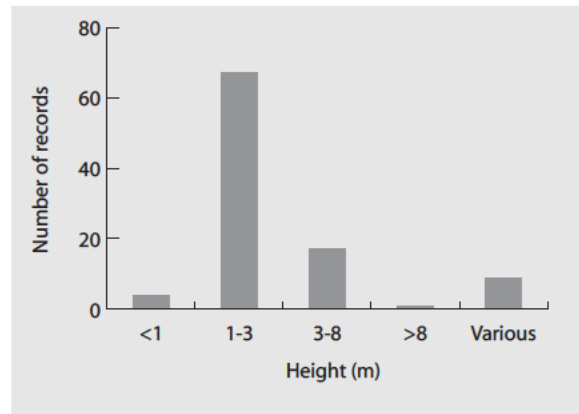
HABITAT

Mostly on plains in mixed or mopane woodland, but also found in other habitats, including termite hills and floodplains; on hill slopes in the north-west and Karstveld; on rocky outcrops in the north-west; along rivers in the north-east. Mostly growing on sand, but also dolomite and calcrete.



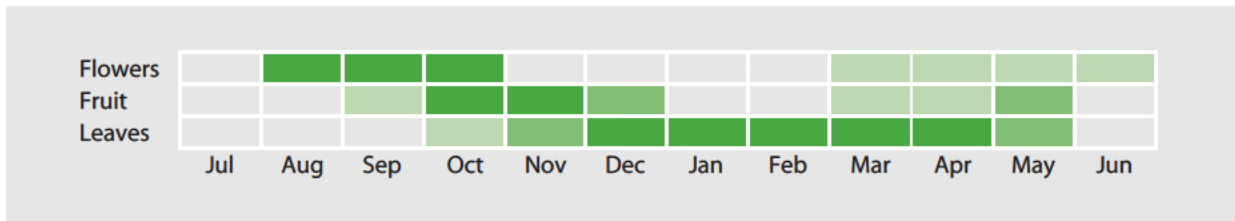
GROWTH FORM

A scrambling shrub, generally in the 1–3-m height class, but sometimes higher. Sometimes grows in dense thickets, and often clammers in other species, especially in riverine areas.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS mainly August to October, but flowers have been recorded almost every month of the year. FRUIT most noticeable in October and November, but have been recorded from March to May as well. LEAVES mostly bare from June until September, with new leaves produced in November.



GENERAL

The roots and leaves are used medicinally. This plant is of horticultural potential as it grows easily, is drought-resistant and will even withstand light frost, and has masses of sweet-scented flowers. The common name refers to the rigid knobs on the stems.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.

Combretum mossambicense, B. Curtis

