

Combretum oxystachyum

Bottlebrush Combretum

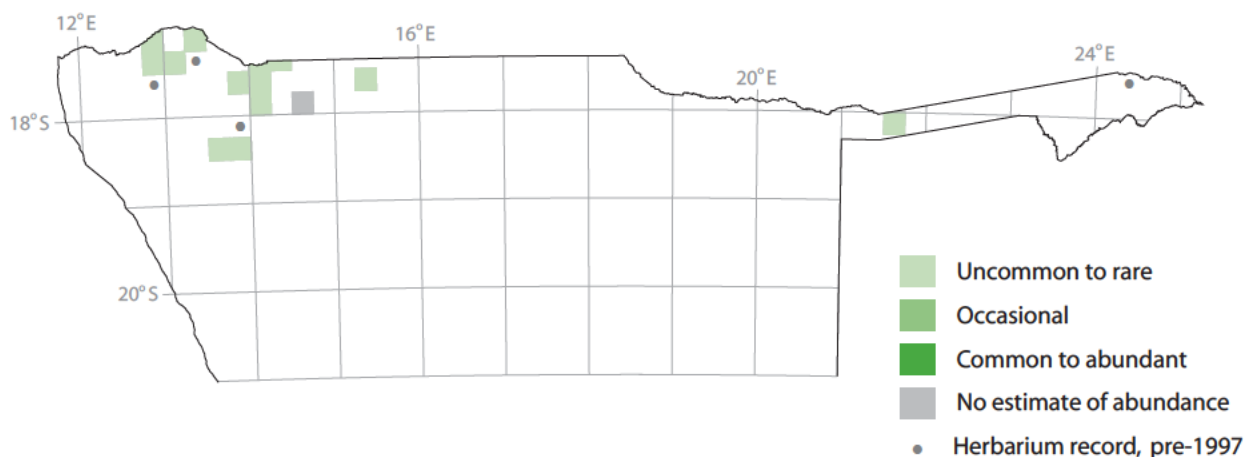
Spitzähriger Combretum (G)

[19 records from 14 (1%) squares]

Scrambling shrub or liana. BARK peeling in stringy strips. LEAVES **longitudinally folded**; ovate to lanceolate; upper surface dull green with dense to scattered white hairs and occasionally with conspicuous, stalked glands. FLOWERS **in dense, erect spikes; large and very striking with crimson to red-brown stamens.** FRUIT usually **five-winged.**

Cannot be confused with any other species.

(See photo of flowers, page 470).



DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Uncommon to rare in north-western Namibia, with an outlier in Mahango Game Reserve (FRI1/292) and an earlier herbarium record from eastern Caprivi.

HABITAT

Found on dolomite hill slopes and rocky outcrops, sometimes sandy plains and along dry rivers. Also recorded on termite mounds in the Cuvelai area.

GROWTH FORM

A scrambling shrub in the 1–3-m height class.

ANNUAL CYCLE

No observations from August to October. FLOWERS January to June, but mainly March and April; there is a single herbarium record in November. FRUIT February to July, mainly March. LEAVES present during months of observation.

GENERAL

Of horticultural potential for frost-free areas, as its flowers and fruit clusters are very striking.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.