

Combretum psidioides

Peeling-twig Combretum

Savanneboswilg (A); Silberbusch (G);
otjindanda (H); omunaluko (O);
mupupu (Rk, Rum, T)

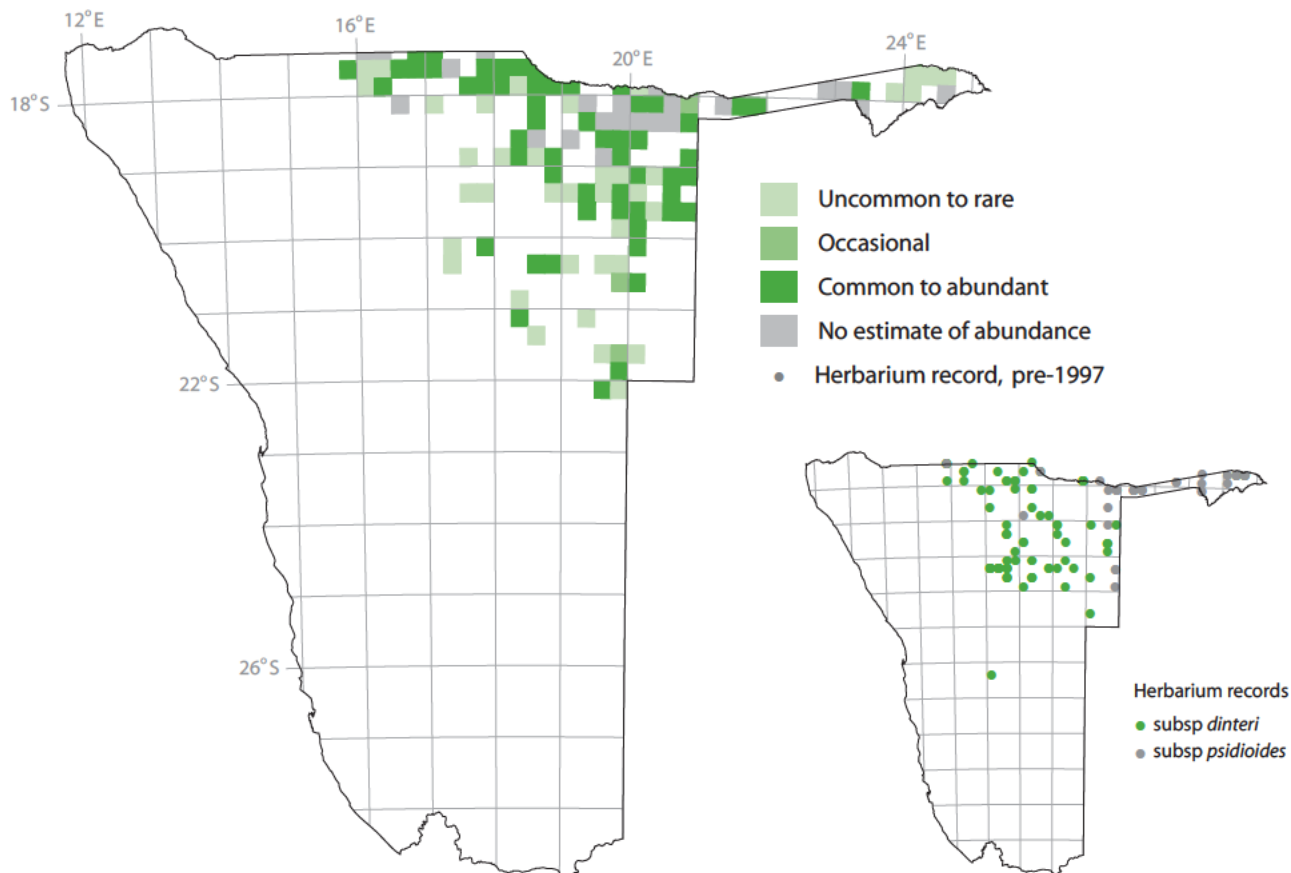
[172 records from 137 (13%) squares]



Shrub or erect tree with a neat, rounded crown. BARK of branchlets becoming **purplish-brown** and peeling off in **tubular segments**, not threads. LEAVES **elliptic to oblong**,

leathery; both surfaces **dull olive-green** with or without a **dense, grey, silky covering** over the entire surface; veins prominent on both surfaces with a **clearly defined reticulate pattern below**. FLOWERS yellow-green, appearing before the leaves. FRUIT **four-winged, small; wings wine red to red-brown with golden central portion**.

There are two subspecies in Namibia, *dinteri* and *psidioides*, which are distinguishable by the arrangement hairs on the leaf. Most atlases did not note subspecies, but since they have fairly different distributions, records were separated on distribution for analyses, but discussed together.

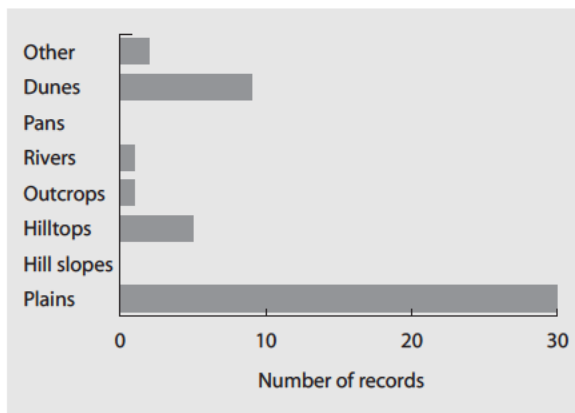


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Generally common in north-eastern Namibia; uncommon in the Cuvelai and Karstveld. According to herbarium records, subsp. *psidioides* occurs in Caprivi, along the Okavango River and south along the Botswana border, while subsp. *dinteri* (which is the more common one) does not occur in Caprivi and extends further west than subsp. *psidioides*. There is overlap between the two along the Okavango River and along the Botswana border. There has been a range extension of subsp. *dinteri* by one degree to the south (2219).

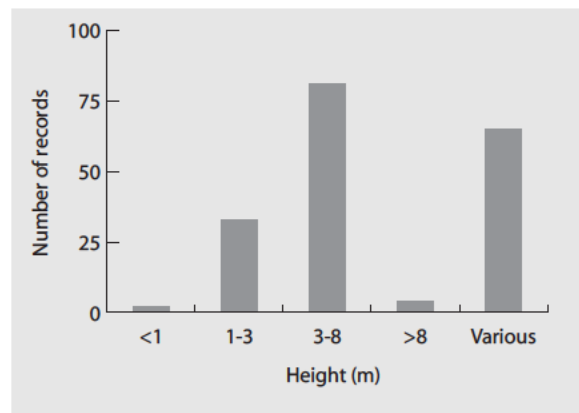
HABITAT

Mostly found on sandy plains, occasionally dunes; on hilltops on the north-central plateau.



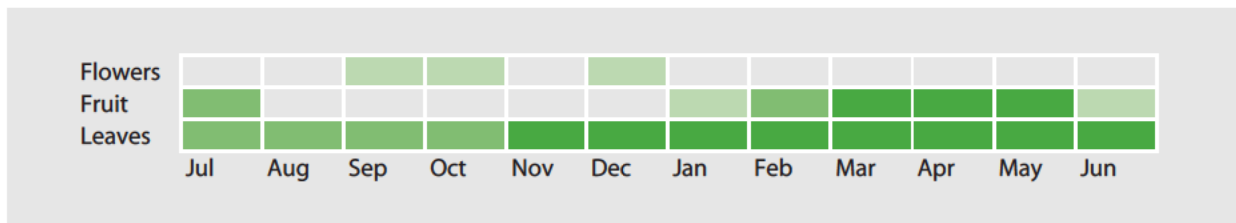
GROWTH FORM

Both subspecies are generally trees in the 3–8-m category. Subspecies *dinteri* is sometimes taller than 8 m (4% of records), or shrubs less than 3m high (34% of records).



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS only one record in each month of September, October and December. **FRUIT** January to July. **LEAVES** evergreen, but with occasional bare trees from July to October, when new leaves are produced.



GENERAL

Shade tree. The wood is used to make handles for implements. The roots are used medicinally, as well as to make fishing baskets. The fruit and powdered bark are used to flavour marula wine, and meat and fish dishes. When injured, the tree exudes an edible gum. This tree is of horticultural potential due to its attractive grey foliage and wine-red pods.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.