

Combretum zeyheri

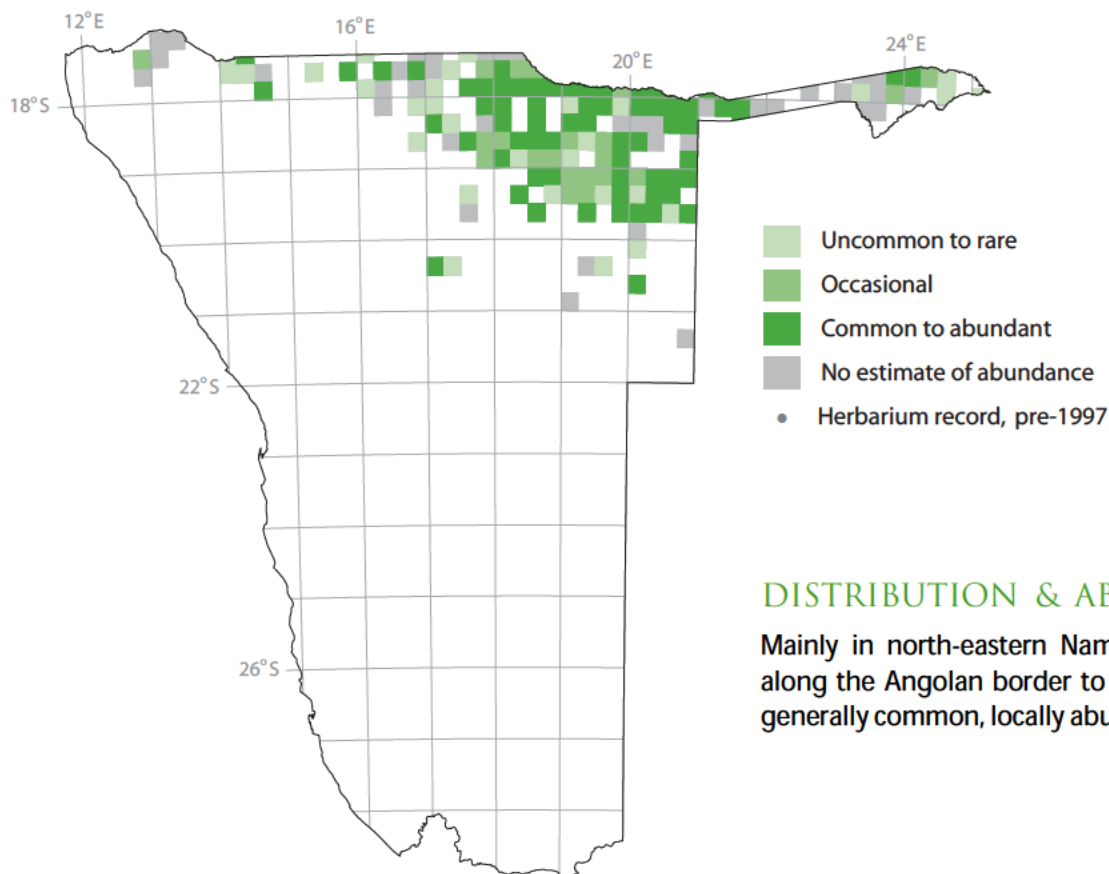
Mukenge

Large-fruited combretum (E);
raasblaar (A); n//abe (J); ghuvu (Kx);
omusheshe (O)

[272 records from 158 (15%) squares]



Shrub or small tree. LEAVES **often whorled (3–4 leaves)**; obovate to elliptic, **large, somewhat leathery**; dark green above; pale grey-green below with **domatia in the axils of veins**; margin undulate. FLOWERS yellow with orange stamens, appearing before the leaves. FRUIT **four-winged, large** (the largest of all Namibian combretums); **brown to golden**; wings undulate, **equally wide all the way down**.

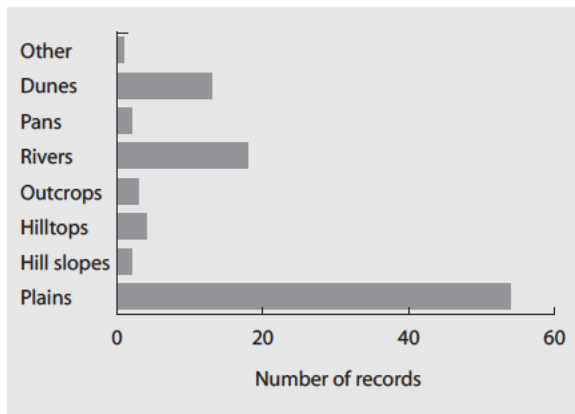


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Mainly in north-eastern Namibia, extending along the Angolan border to the north-west; generally common, locally abundant in places.

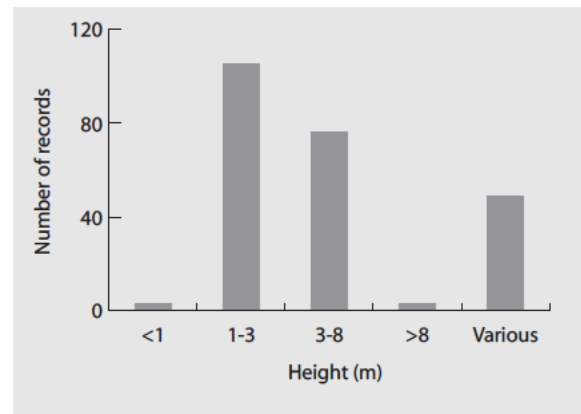
HABITAT

Mainly found on sandy plains, also on dunes and along river banks in the north-east.



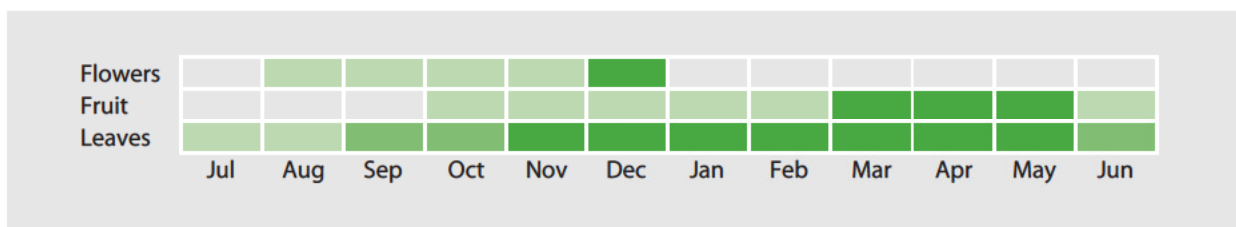
GROWTH FORM

A shrub or tree up to 3 m high, but also a tree up to 8 m high (37%) of records.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS from August, but mostly in December. FRUIT from October, but mostly March to May. LEAVES mostly November to May, with new leaves in September and October.



GENERAL

The leaves are browsed by game and livestock. The wood is used as fencing and building material; the leaves and roots are used medicinally; the gum is edible. The bark, twigs and root fibres have various uses, and are used for weaving baskets and fish traps, as well as brides' wedding bands and belts. Used in rituals. The Afrikaans common name 'raasblaar' refers to the rustling sound made by the fruit and leaves in the wind.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.



Combretum zeyheri, flowers and fruit, B. Curtis