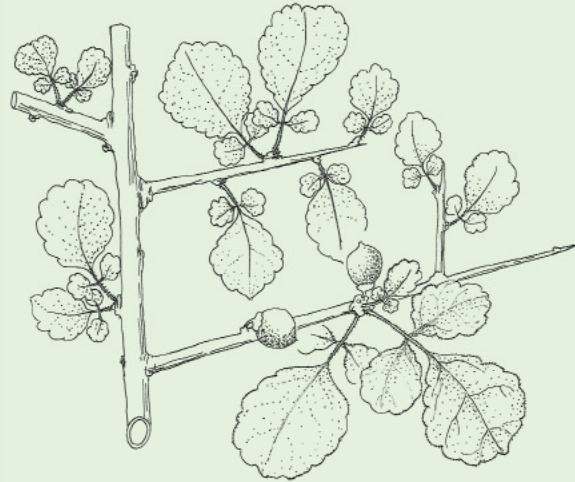


Commiphora africana

Hairy Corkwood

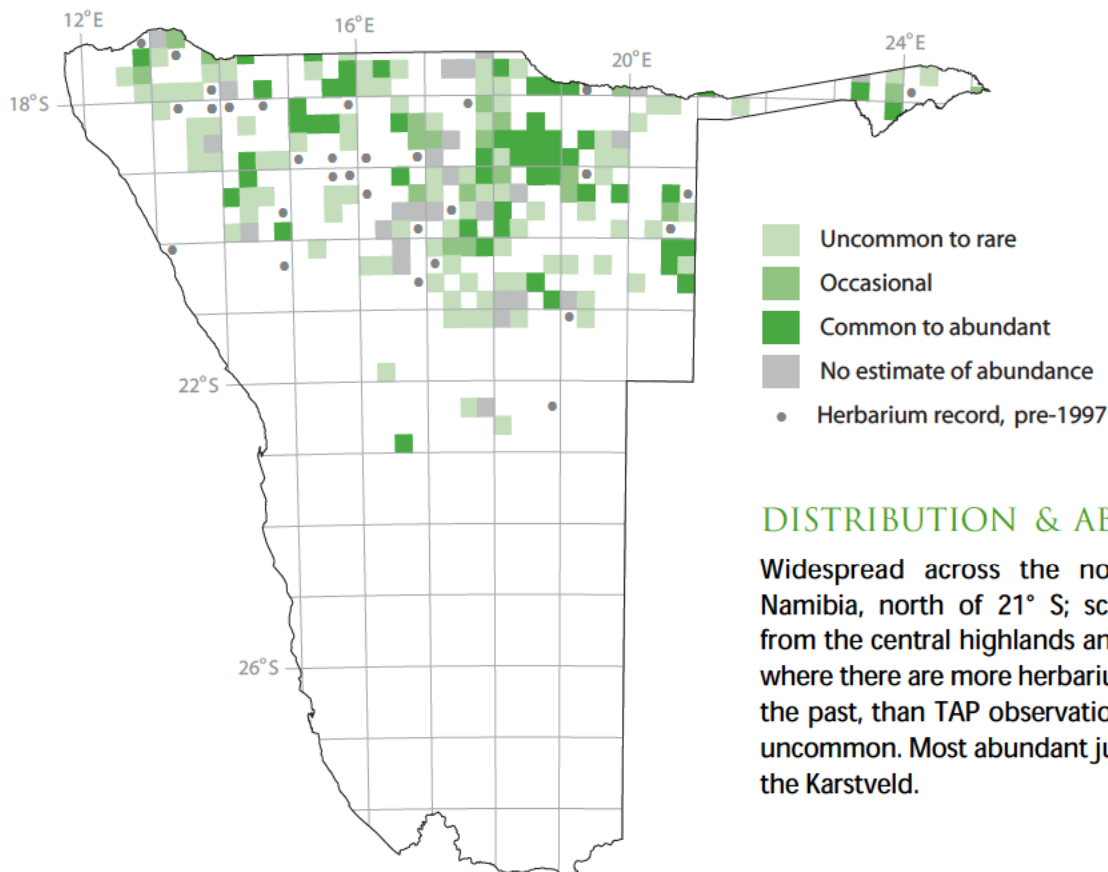
Poison-grub commiphora (E);
omukuya (H); /hus (K); mutjimati (T)

[333 records from 212 (20%) squares]



Generally, a many-stemmed shrub; **spine-tipped**. BARK dark-grey to green, flaking off in papery strips to expose a green underbark. LEAVES **trifoliate**, fairly small; both surfaces olive-green, **with long, soft hairs or densely woolly**; veins prominent below; **margin scalloped**. FLOWERS small and inconspicuous, easily overlooked.

Could be confused with some of the other species with green underbark, such as *C. angolensis*, if the leaves and spines are not closely examined.

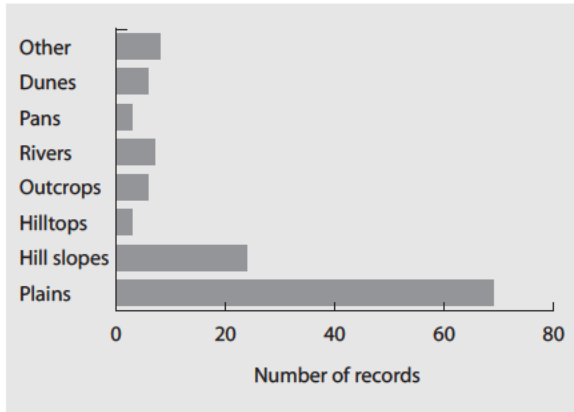


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Widespread across the northern half of Namibia, north of 21° S; scattered records from the central highlands and Gobabis area, where there are more herbarium records from the past, than TAP observations. Common to uncommon. Most abundant just north-east of the Karstveld.

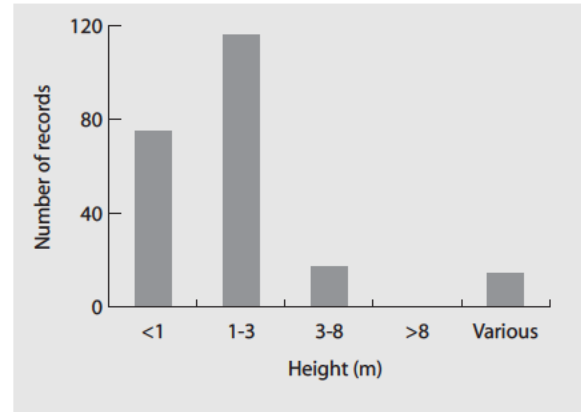
HABITAT

Predominantly on plains, also hill slopes in the north-west, with occasional records in other habitats. Mainly found on sand, but also calcrete, dolomite and other stony or rocky habitats.



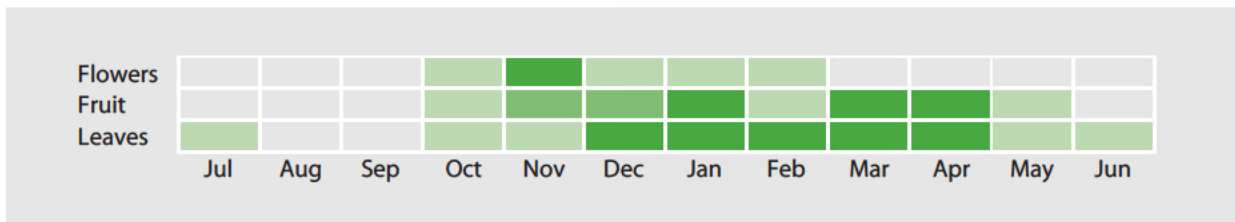
GROWTH FORM

Mostly a shrub in the 1–3-m height class; occasionally a tree taller than 3 m.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS mostly November, with scattered records from October to February. FRUIT mostly from November to April, with the most records in March. LEAVES mainly from December to April, with young leaves October to December.



GENERAL

Browsed by herbivores and defoliated by caterpillars; also host to the larvae of an insect whose pupal cases contain a toxin used to dress arrowheads. The resin, as well as the raw, young roots, are edible. Cups and buckets are carved from the wood. *Commiphora africana* is easily grown as a hedge or 'live fence' by planting truncheons. It was recorded that female plants grow faster than males (NAM3).

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.

Commiphora africana, leaves, B. Curtis

