

Commiphora angolensis

Sand Corkwood

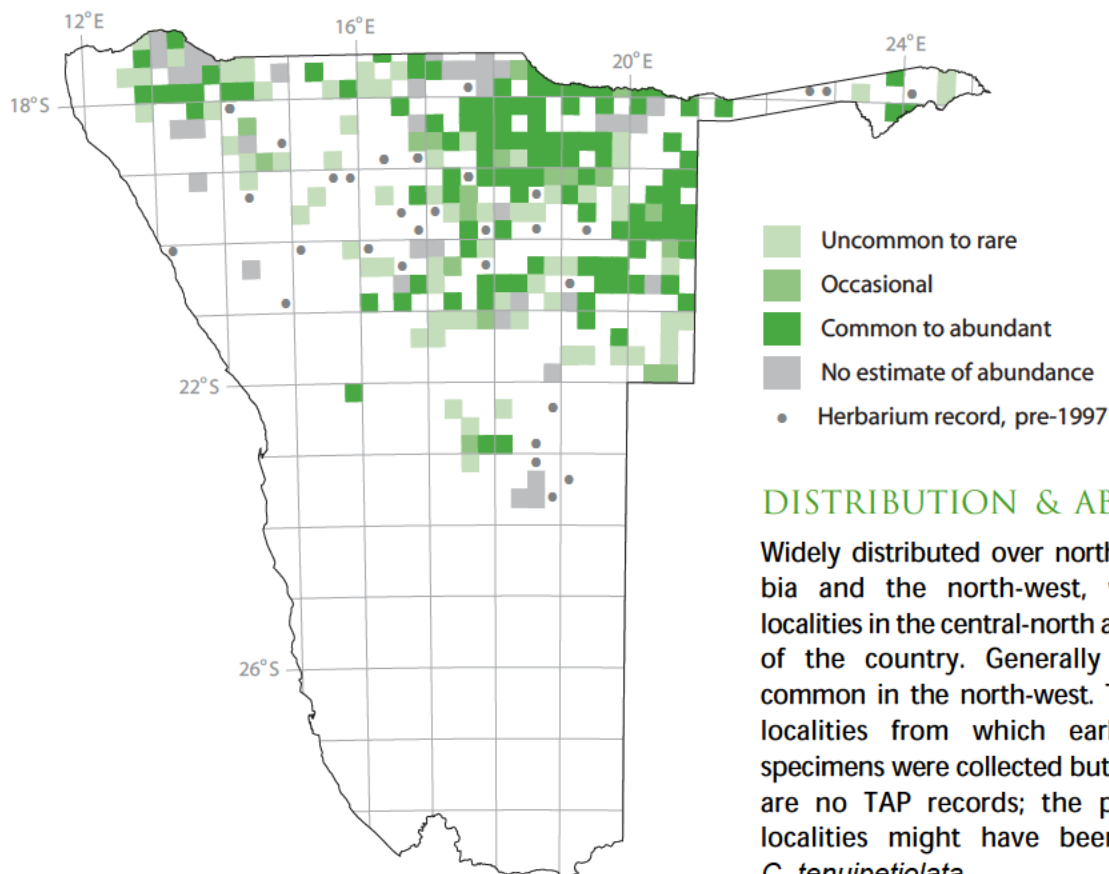
Sandkanniedood (A); /iinas (K);
oshiwowo (Od); mughogho (Rk)

[391 records from 262 (24%) squares]



Generally a shrub. BARK yellow-green to grey to dark grey to chestnut-brown with brown markings; flaking off in grey-white to yellow, papery strips to expose the green underbark. BRANCHLETS with soft hairs when young, blunt-tipped. LEAVES usually trifoliate, occasionally imparipinnate with 2–4 lateral pinna pairs; both surfaces olive-green, with long, soft hairs.

Easily confused with *C. tenuipetiolata*, but *C. angolensis* is generally a shrub, while *C. tenuipetiolata* is generally a tree. *Commiphora tenuipetiolata* also lacks soft hairs on the branchlets.

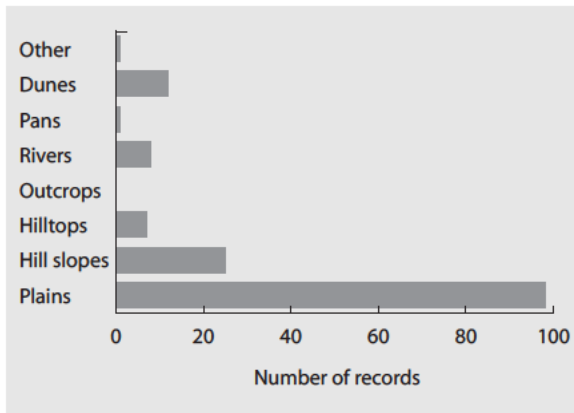


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Widely distributed over north-eastern Namibia and the north-west, with scattered localities in the central-north and central parts of the country. Generally common; uncommon in the north-west. There are many localities from which earlier herbarium specimens were collected but for which there are no TAP records; the plants in these localities might have been recorded as *C. tenuipetiolata*.

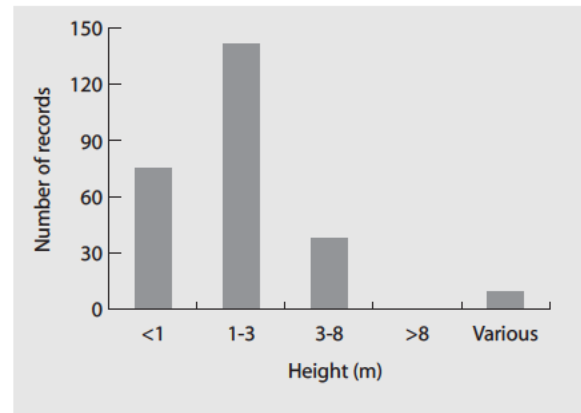
HABITAT

Mainly found on plains, also hillsides; on dunes and along rivers in the north-east, with isolated records from other habitats. Generally growing on sand, occasionally stony soil.



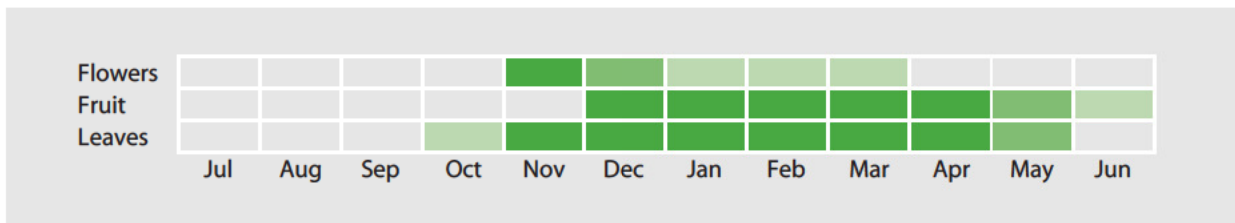
GROWTH FORM

Mostly a shrub up to 3 m high, sometimes a tree up to 8 m. Very often thicket-forming.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS mainly in November, but may be found sporadically up until March. FRUIT present from December to May. LEAVES present from November to May, with young leaves in October.



GENERAL

Easy to grow as a 'live fence' from truncheons, and is one of five royal sacred trees planted in kraals. The roots contain a refreshing, sweet fluid, they are chewed and the fibres are spat out; roots are also boiled in water, which is then used to treat high blood pressure (BOC1). The wood is used for firewood and to carve utensils, such as cups and buckets. *Commiphora angolensis* hosts the larvae of beetles belonging to the genus *Diamphidia*, whose pupal cases contain a toxin used to produce arrow poison.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.

Commiphora angolensis, seed with pseudaril, B. Curtis

