

GENERAL

Possibly has specialised horticultural potential as bonsai or pachycaul.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

The lack of records from previously recorded squares could indicate insufficient atlasing or a die-back of the species. In the Lüderitz area, none of the three squares from which the species was previously recorded was atlased. Along the Orange River all of the three previous squares were atlased, but not exactly the same localities. This near-endemic could be threatened by illegal removal for the pachycaul trade.

Commiphora cervifolia

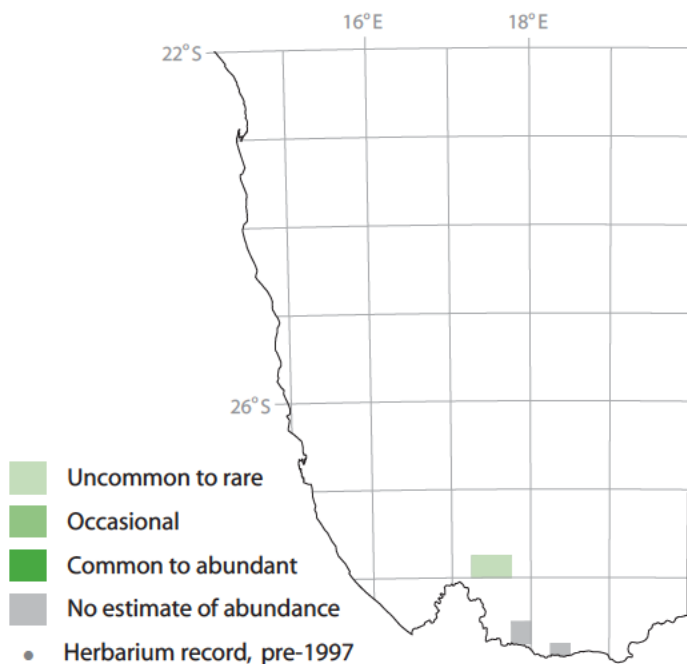
Antler-leaved Corkwood

Spoegboom (A)

[4 records from 4 (<0.5%) squares]



Thick-stemmed shrub (or dwarf tree) with a single, fat base, branching near the ground into many stout branches. BARK grey-green to yellow-brown with dark flecks, **not flaking**. LEAVES trifoliate; **irregularly lobed like stag antlers**, sometimes three-lobed; base runs into petiole. FLOWERS small, yellow. FRUIT ellipsoid, up to 10 mm in diameter; pseudaril absent.



DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Uncommon and endemic to a very small area just north of the Orange River, with more records south of the river.

HABITAT

Rocky outcrops and hill slopes.

GROWTH FORM

Shrub, recorded as less than 1 m and 1–3 m high.

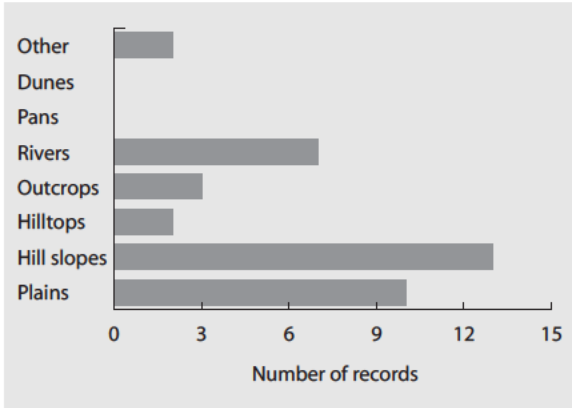
ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS September. FRUIT no records. LEAVES deciduous.

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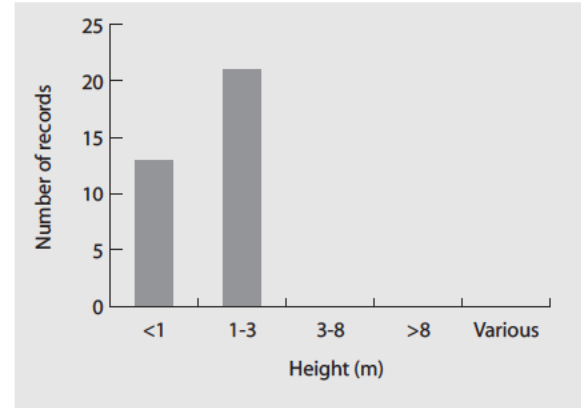
HABITAT

Mostly on rocky hill slopes, often very steep ones; also gravel plains and along dry water courses.



GROWTH FORM

Described by atlassers as a shrub or tree. About 37% of records less than 1 m high; 63% over 1 m, but less than 3m.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS mostly recorded in October and November, but also in February (Naukluft, 2416AA); there were also records of plants starting to flower in April 2003 (2115AC, SWA3). There were no herbarium records of flowering. FRUIT no TAP records, but there were herbarium records from September to May, with most in April. LEAVES present from January to May or July, with young leaves in November and December.

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CONSERVATION CONCERNS

Endemic. Potentially threatened by pachycaul trade. The lack of TAP records from some of the earlier herbarium specimen sites could be a result of die-off of the species, or atlassers either not having visited the sites or having misidentified the plants. These sites should be investigated further.

Commiphora cervifolia Continued from page 271:

GENERAL

Exudes a sweet, aromatic resin when touched. The fruit are eaten by game and small stock. Possible specialised horticultural potential as bonsai or pachycaul.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

This endemic species is rare in Namibia and unique in the world. It is not protected, nor has it been assessed as a 'Red Data' species. Although

the population appears to be stable, due to its small numbers it deserves more attention and protection. Unless the issue of fuel provision is addressed in the far south, increasing numbers of migrant labourers working on large-scale irrigation schemes along the Orange River could result in this species being harvested for fuel in future. Potentially threatened by the illegal pachycaul trade. Assessed as 'near threatened' (Craven & Loots 2002).