

Commiphora dinteri

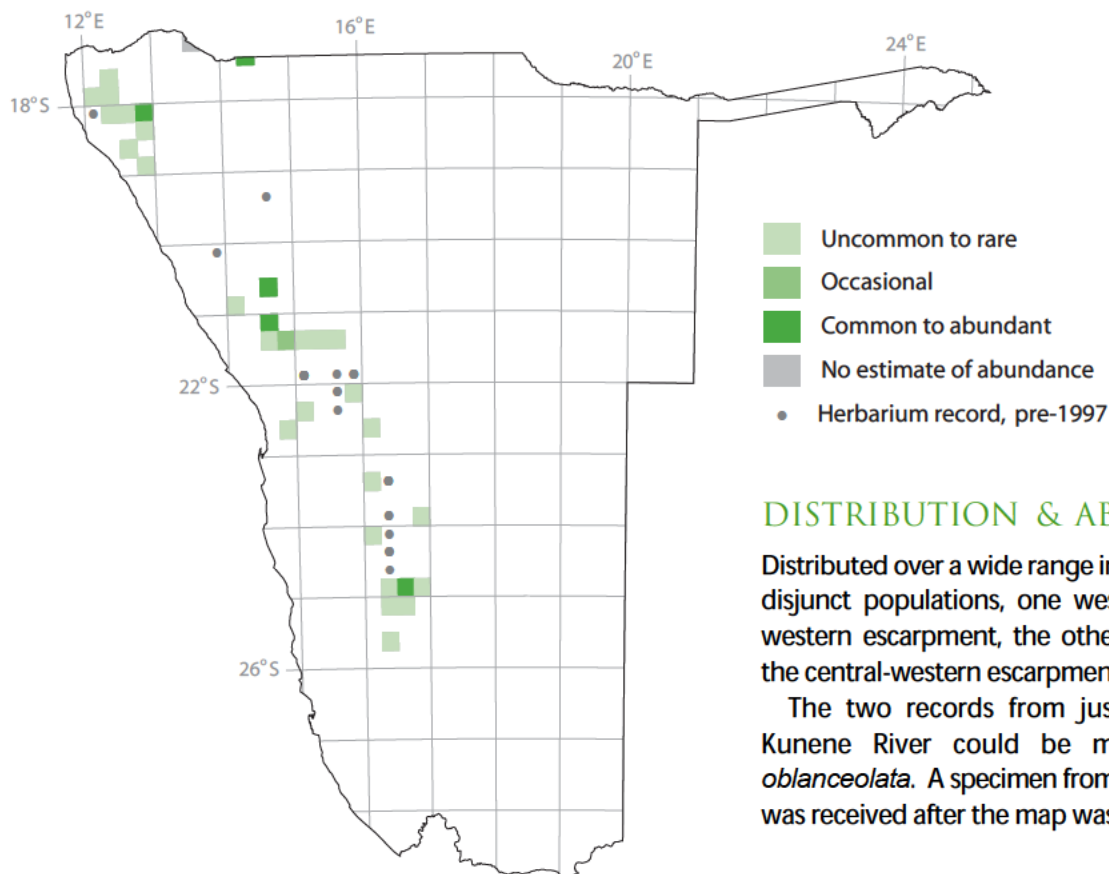
Namib Corkwood

[38 records from 34 (3%) squares]



Shrub with **swollen stem, branching near the ground**. BARK **grey to grey-brown, smooth to wrinkled with black flecks**. LEAVES usually **trifoliate**, 8–30 mm long; **leaflet obovate** to broadly elliptic; both surfaces olive-green, hairless; **margin scalloped or deeply toothed**. FLOWERS small and inconspicuous. FRUIT with red pseudaril; four-lobed with two lobes shorter than the other two.

This plant strongly resembles *C. capensis*, but the leaves may be larger than those of *C. capensis*. The main difference is in the pseudaril, which is absent in *C. capensis*. They are also separated by distribution.



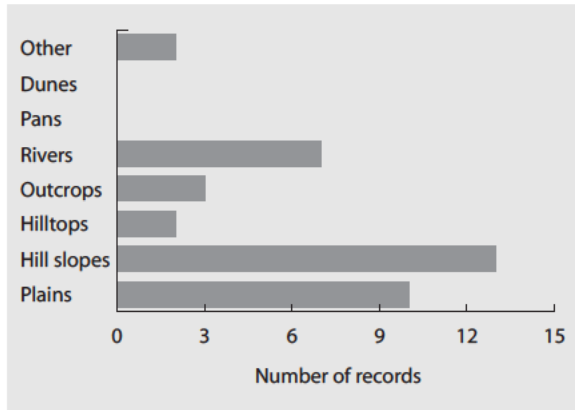
DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Distributed over a wide range in two apparently disjunct populations, one west of the north-western escarpment, the other roughly along the central-western escarpment.

The two records from just south of the Kunene River could be misidentified *C. oblancoolata*. A specimen from 1712AA (SWA3) was received after the map was drawn.

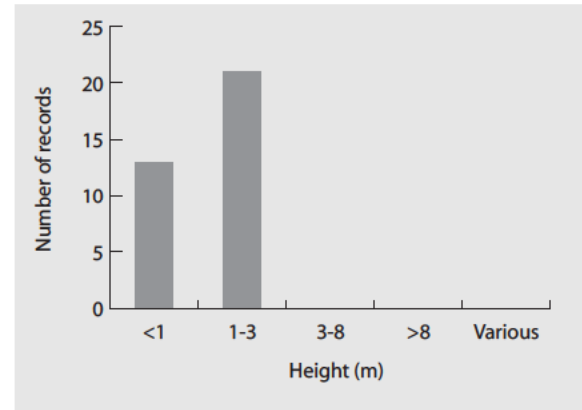
HABITAT

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.

GENERAL

Possible specialised horticultural potential as bonsai or pachycaul.

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).