

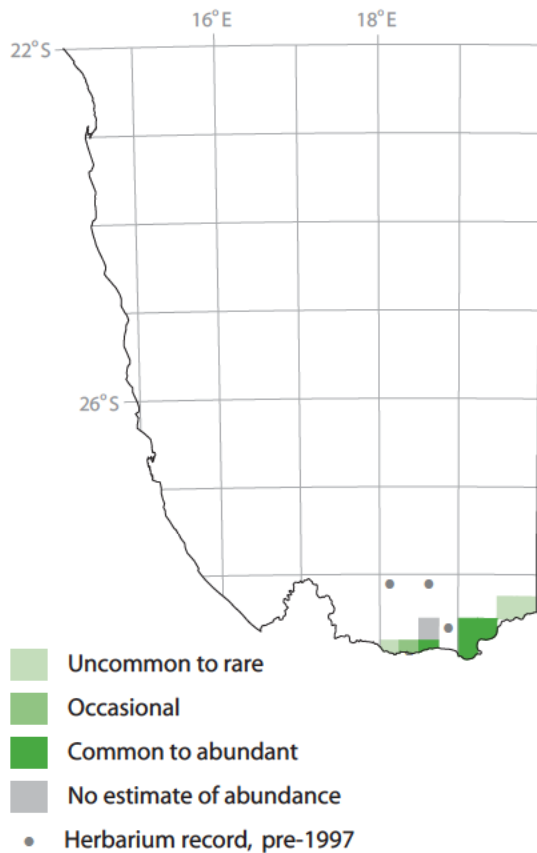
Commiphora gracilifrondosa

Karee Corkwood

Kareekanniedood/Suikerkan (A)

[11 records from 9 (<1%) squares]

Thick, swollen-stemmed shrub, branching near the ground, with stems appearing succulent. BARK grey to yellow-brown with dark flecks, not flaky. BRANCHLETS not spine-tipped. LEAVES trifoliolate, up to 60 mm long; leaflets linear, terminal leaflet often irregularly lobed. FLOWERS small and inconspicuous. FRUIT almost round; pseudaril with two long arms and 1 or 2 shorter lobes.



DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Locally common in a small area immediately north of the Orange River, east of 18° E.

HABITAT

Found on rocky outcrops and hill slopes. Sometimes recorded on sandy soil or gravel among boulders, or on the banks of streams.

GROWTH FORM

A shrub in the 1–3-m height class; sometimes smaller. A few herbarium collectors referred to it as a 'many-stemmed tree'.

ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS mainly in October, with herbarium records in September and May. FRUIT mainly in October, with single records from February to May. LEAVES October to March.

GENERAL

Possible specialised horticultural potential as bonsai or pachycaul.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

A species endemic to the Orange River, with a very restricted distribution, though common where it occurs and not appearing to be threatened. The two herbarium records unconfirmed by the TAP could be indicative of a decline in the population or that the species may have been overlooked; one of the squares in which it was previously recorded was not well-atlased, the other was moderately atlased. As for *C. cervifolia*, the threat of firewood shortages in its area of distribution and increasing numbers of people in the area is a concern. Could potentially be threatened by the pachycaul trade. Assessed as 'near-threatened' (Craven & Loots 2002).

Commiphora karibensis

Angular-stem
Corkwood

[2 records from 1 square]

Very similar to *C. mollis*, but with deeply fluted trunk.

Both TAP records from Impalila Island. Uncommon as a shrub in the 1–3-m height class; locally common as a tree, 3–8 m high, on the river bank. No flowers or fruit recorded. Previously, not recorded in Namibia.

Commiphora krauseliana, leaves and fruit, S. Bethune

