

Commiphora mollis

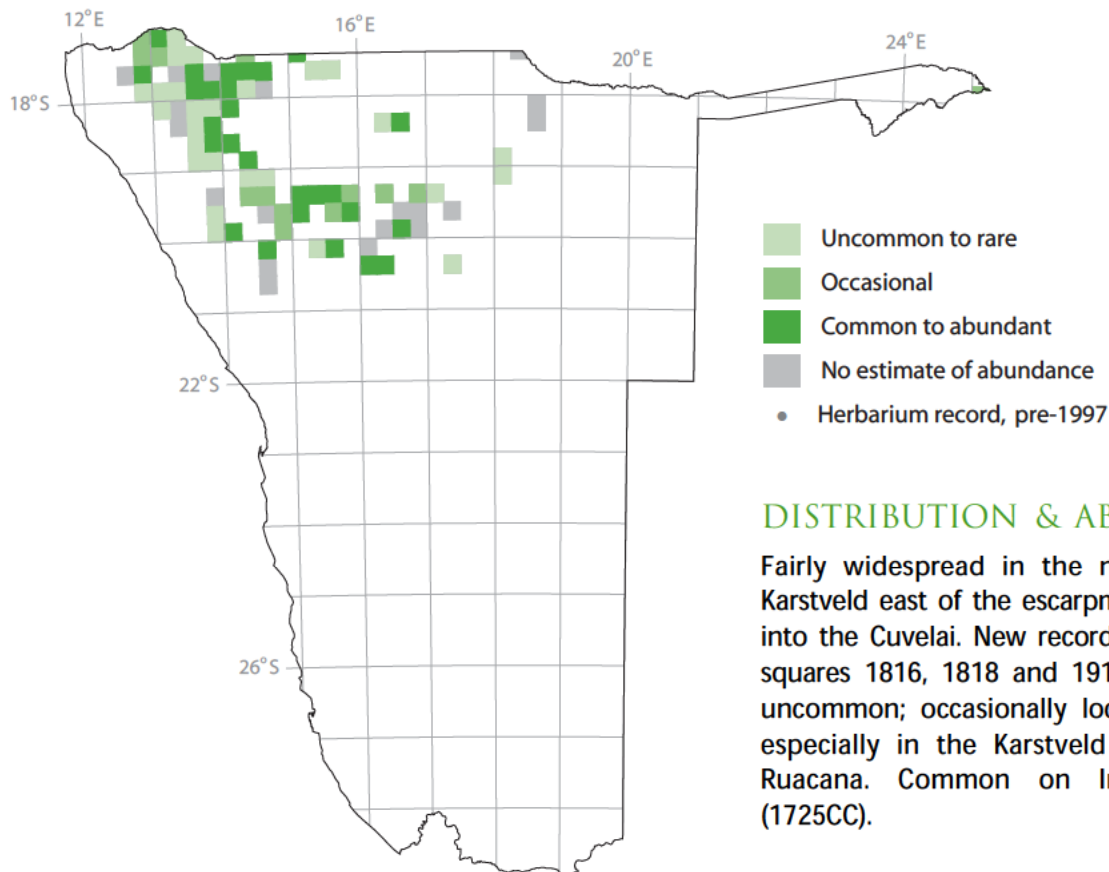
Velvet Corkwood

Fluweelkanniedood (A);
Haarige Myrrhe (G); omurenda (H);
dau-areb (K)

[138 records from 86 (8%) squares]



Tree with **round, spreading crown**, up to 8 m high; stem base sometimes **fluted in mature trees**. **BARK smooth, brown to grey-brown, peeling off in small rectangular blocks**; often irregularly fissured with knobby thickenings. **LEAVES** compound, medium-sized; leaflets oblong-elliptic, grey to green, **with a finely woolly covering**. **FLOWERS** small, cream-coloured to slightly pink. **FRUIT** almost round, up to 15 mm in diameter, red, densely downy; pseudaril red, four-lobed, almost covering entire seed.

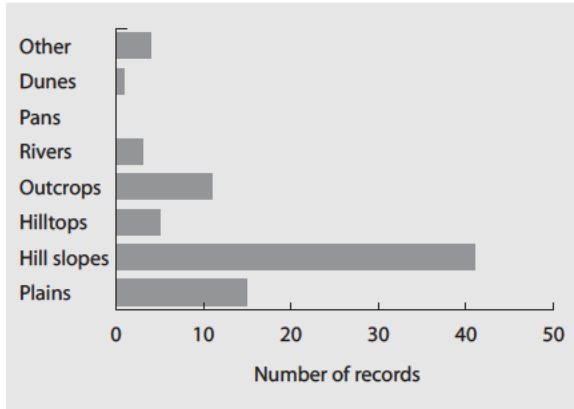


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Fairly widespread in the north-west and Karstveld east of the escarpment, extending into the Cuvelai. New records from degree-squares 1816, 1818 and 1918. Common to uncommon; occasionally locally abundant, especially in the Karstveld and south of Ruacana. Common on Impalila Island (1725CC).

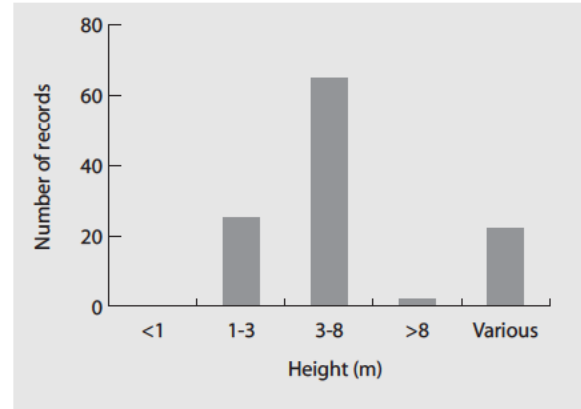
HABITAT

Mainly found on hill slopes and plains; also on rocky outcrops in the north-west. Usually growing on stony or rocky ground, but also in deep sand. One large specimen was found near a seasonally inundated area in the central-north (1715CB).



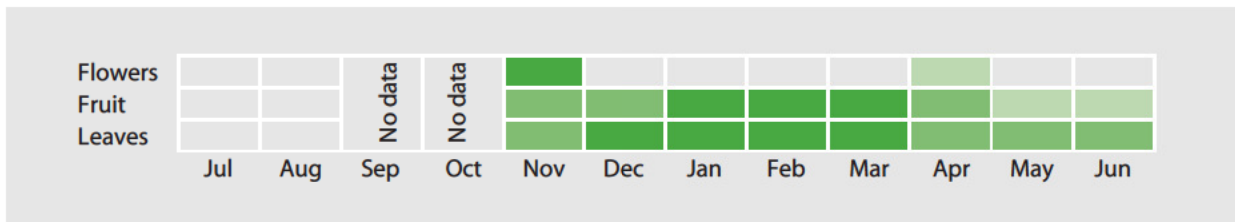
GROWTH FORM

A tree up to 8 m high; rarely over 8 m, but often less than 3 m.



ANNUAL CYCLE

There were no observations in September and October. FLOWERS November, with one herbarium record in April; apparently rain dependent. FRUIT mainly November to April, but may be found until June. LEAVES mainly December to March, with new leaves produced in November and some trees still with leaves until the end of June.



GENERAL

The leaves and young shoots are browsed by game and livestock. The wood is used for making household articles. The plant has horticultural potential and can easily be grown from truncheons; locally, it is used as 'live fencing'. Also called 'visboom' (PLE1, 1914D).

Oshindongo names include 'omukanga' for the tree, 'ewongua/egonga' for the unripe fruit and 'akamene' for the ripe seed (MAN1, CUR1, HOF1, specimen WIND72369)

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.

