

Commiphora pyracanthoides

Firethorn Corkwood

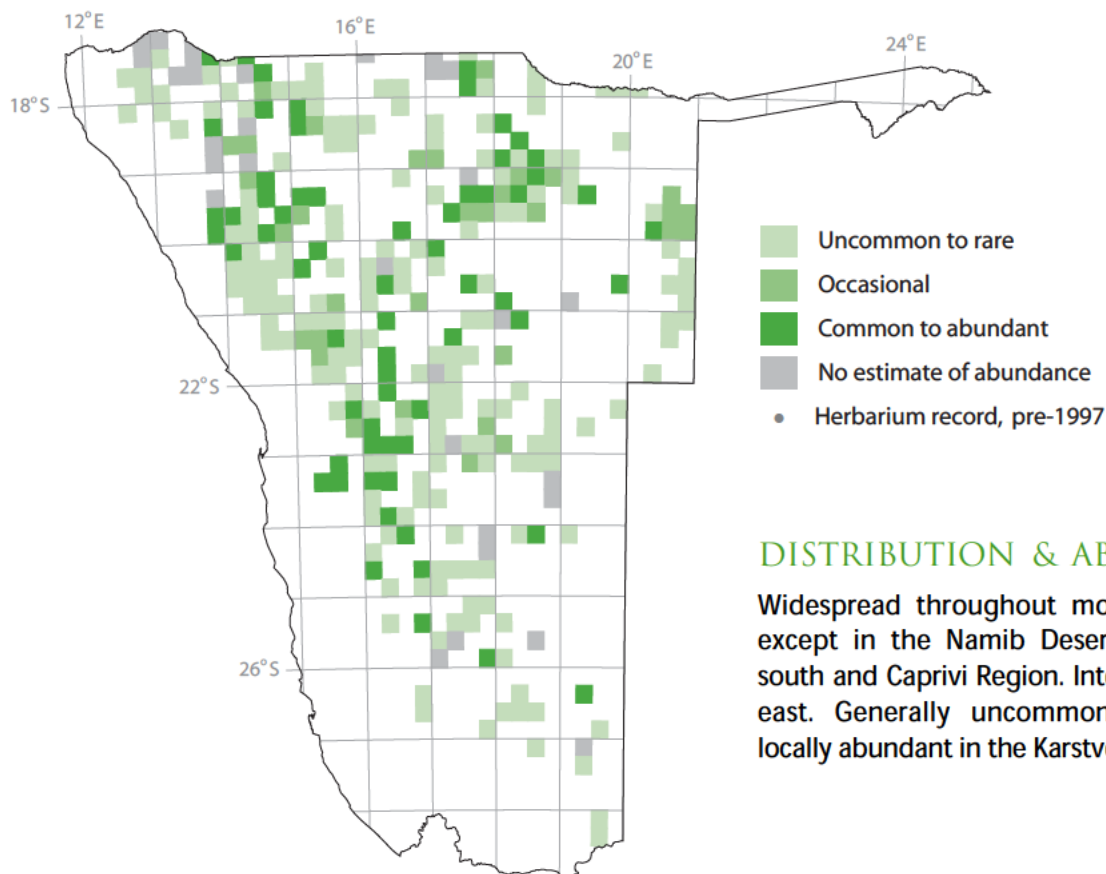
Small common corkwood (E);
Feuerdorn (G); /iinīb (K)

[543 records from 309 (29%) squares]



Spiny, many-stemmed shrub, occasionally a tree. BARK peeling off in yellowish, papery strips to expose a green underbark. LEAVES **simple** or trifoliate, generally clustered, obovate to elliptic; **both surfaces shiny green** with long, glandular hairs, especially concentrated at base; **margin mostly toothed**; petiole very short. FLOWERS small, pink to pale red, on dwarf-shoots. FRUIT ovoid to round, up to 18 mm in diameter; pseudaril red, four-lobed with lobes covering the entire seed.

Very difficult to distinguish from *C. glandulosa* without looking for the absence of glandular hairs on the calyx. *Commiphora pyracanthoides* is generally a shrub, and this criterion was used to separate the two species in most cases.

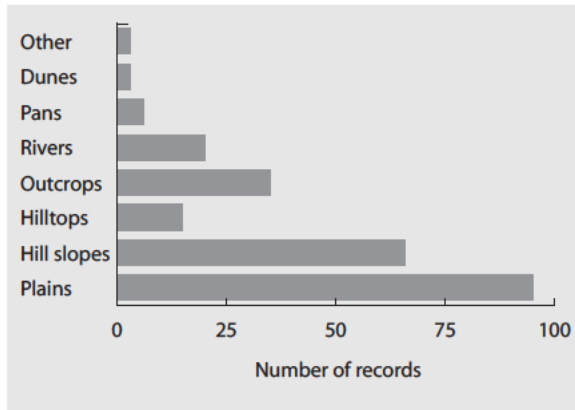


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Widespread throughout most of Namibia, except in the Namib Desert, the extreme south and Caprivi Region. Intermittent in the east. Generally uncommon to common; locally abundant in the Karstveld,

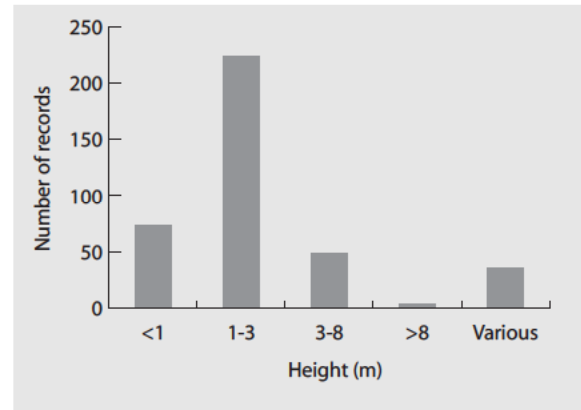
HABITAT

Found in various habitats, but mainly on plains, hill slopes and rocky outcrops. Grows on sand, calcrete and stony or rocky ground.



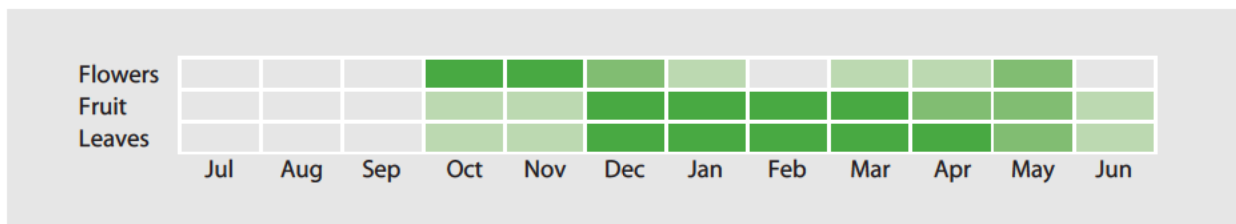
GROWTH FORM

Generally a shrub in the 1–3-m height class, sometimes over 3 m, often growing under other plants; occasionally a tree up to 8 m high.



ANNUAL CYCLE

This is a rain-dependent species. FLOWERS mostly in October and November, with a smaller peak in May and intermittent records almost all year. FRUIT mainly December to March. LEAVES December to May, with young leaves in October and November.



GENERAL

The leaves are browsed. The fruit are inedible. The roots have a thirst-quenching sap. An extract from the bark is used to straighten hair and treat gall diseases in calves; the resin is edible (compare with *C. glandulosa*), but is also used as soap. The wood is used to start fires by rubbing sticks together; finely crushed wood is used as snuff. This plant is used to build 'living fences'. Called 'Botterboom' and 'Pendoring' on some farms, but both these names more often refer to completely different species.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.