

Croton megalobotrys

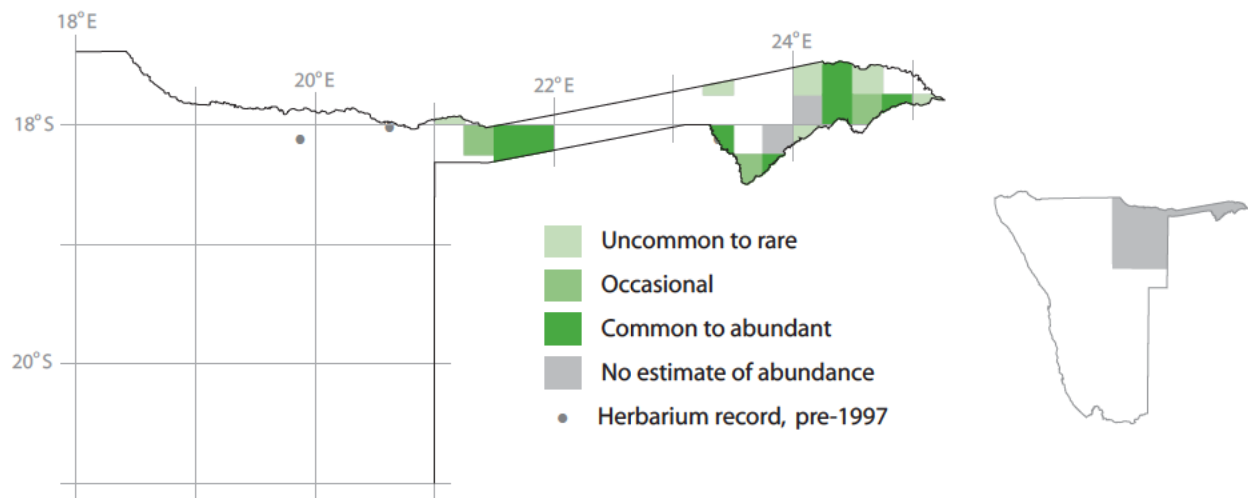
Murongo

(Large) fever-berry (E); mununkila, mutwatwa (L)

[48 records from 20 (2%) squares]



Shrub or tree. BARK grey-brown with a yellowish tint; **young branchlets densely downy**. LEAVES simple, ovate to elliptic-lanceolate, **conspicuously tapering from a broad base towards apex**, up to 150 mm long; **prominently five-veined from the base**; **margin irregularly and coarsely toothed**; **petiole 25–60 mm long**, with dense woolly covering and **two small knob-like glands near tip**. FLOWERS small, yellow-green, in an 80–100-mm-long spike. FRUIT a softly hairy or smooth, three-chambered, woody capsule, **20–35 mm in diameter**; bright green at first, becoming orange to golden-brown when ripe.

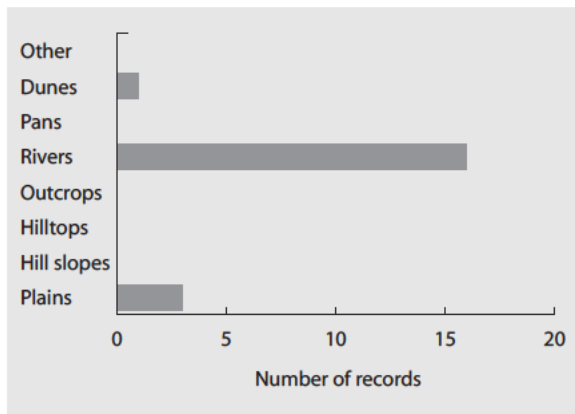


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Common to uncommon along the eastern stretches of the Okavango River and in eastern Caprivi. Locally abundant on floodplains.

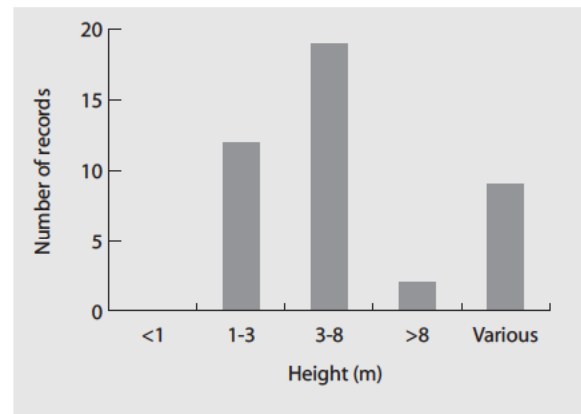
HABITAT

Mainly found on floodplains and along river banks.



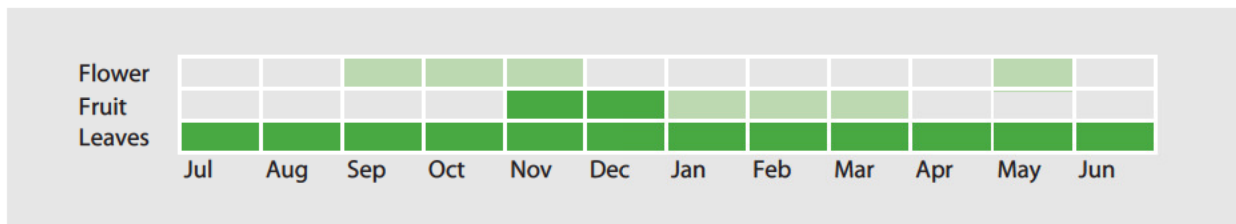
GROWTH FORM

A tree or shrub up to 8 m high, occasionally over 8 m.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS one record per month in September, October, November and May. FRUIT mostly in November and December, but can be found till March. LEAVES evergreen.



GENERAL

Eaten by elephants. The bark is poisonous, but various parts of the plant are used medicinally. May be thicket-forming away from the river.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.

Croton megalobotrys, Kwando River,
C. Mannheimer

