

Croton menyharthii

Rough-leaved Croton

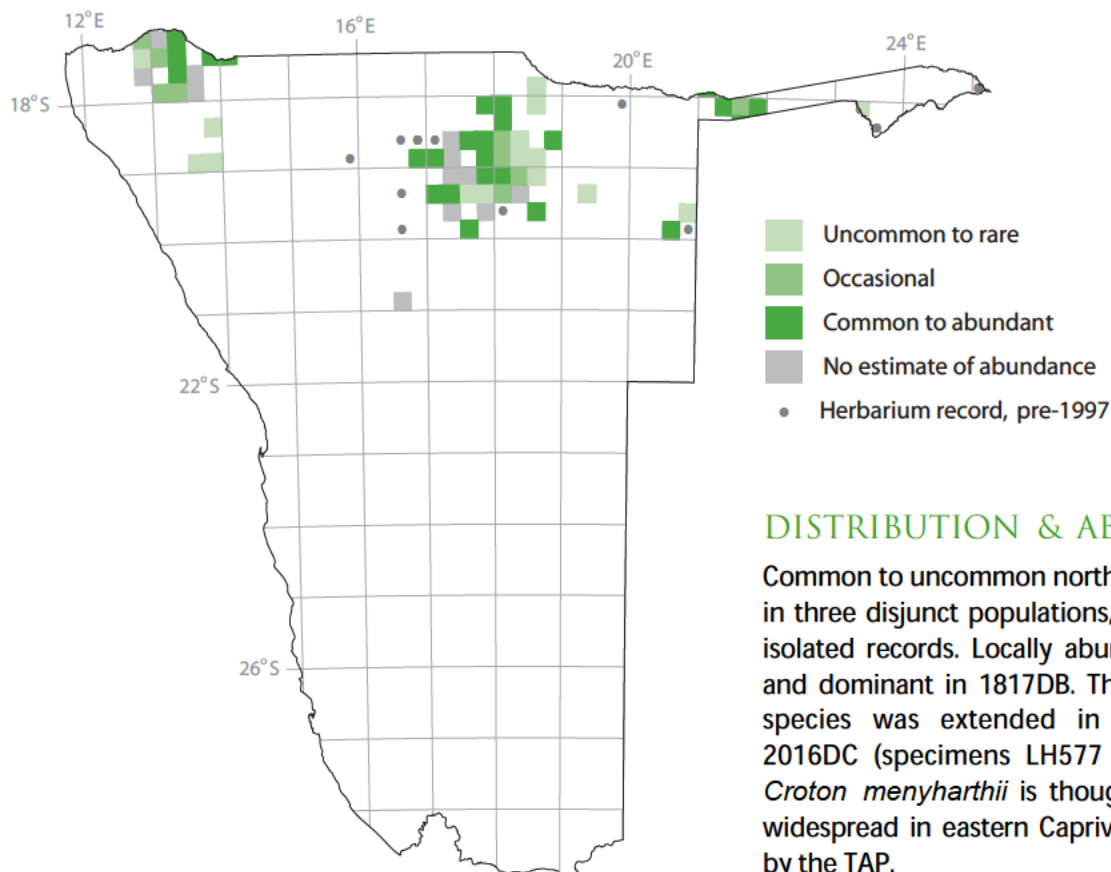
Mwango (T)

[117 records from 64 (6%) squares]



Semi-deciduous shrub. BARK rough, grey-brown; young branchlets silvery. LEAVES simple, ovate to virtually elliptic, up to 70 mm long; scattered rough hairs above and **dense silver-yellow scales below**; apex blunt, often shallowly notched; base heart-shaped to blunt; **petiole 2–5 mm long**. FLOWERS yellowish. FRUIT a three-chambered capsule, up to 8 mm in diameter and splitting open when ripe.

Can be confused with *C. gratissimus*, but *C. menyharthii* is generally a much smaller plant with a more yellowish appearance. Leaves of *C. menyharthii* have shorter petioles.

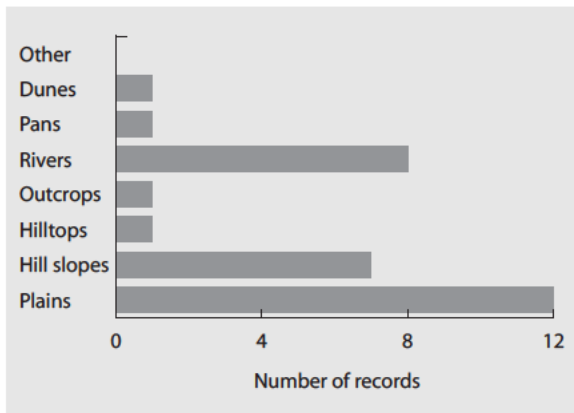


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Common to uncommon north of 21° S mainly in three disjunct populations, but with other isolated records. Locally abundant in places and dominant in 1817DB. The range of this species was extended in degree-square 2016DC (specimens LH577 & 578, HOF1). *Croton menyharthii* is thought to be more widespread in eastern Caprivi than reported by the TAP.

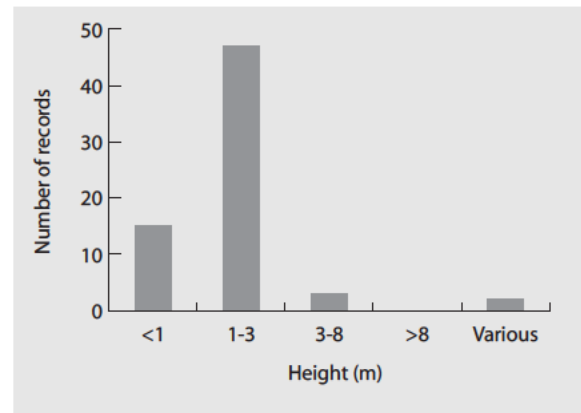
HABITAT

Found in a variety of habitats, but mostly in mixed woodlands, and on plains and hill slopes. Also along dry river courses in the north-west. Grows on sand, loam or stony substrates.



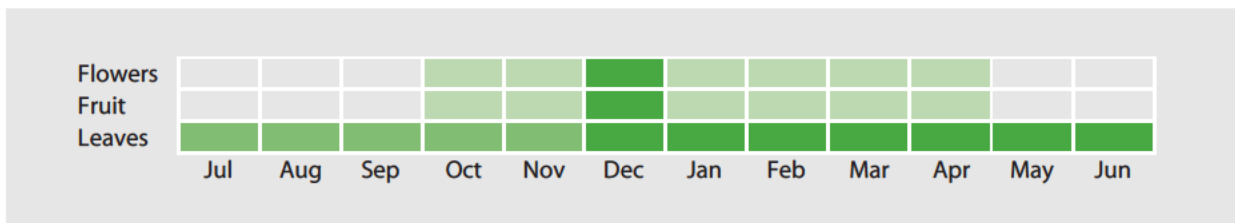
GROWTH FORM

Mainly a shrub in the 1–3-m height class, occasionally a tree.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS and FRUIT recorded sporadically October to April, but mostly in December. LEAVES may be found on some individuals all year, but mostly from December till June.



GENERAL

A rain-dependent species.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded. The lack of records from the Okavango River and eastern Caprivi could be due to the species having been overlooked or misidentified by atlasers, but is a concern if the species no longer occurs in those localities.



Croton menyharthii, G. Friederich