

# *Cyphostemma currorii*

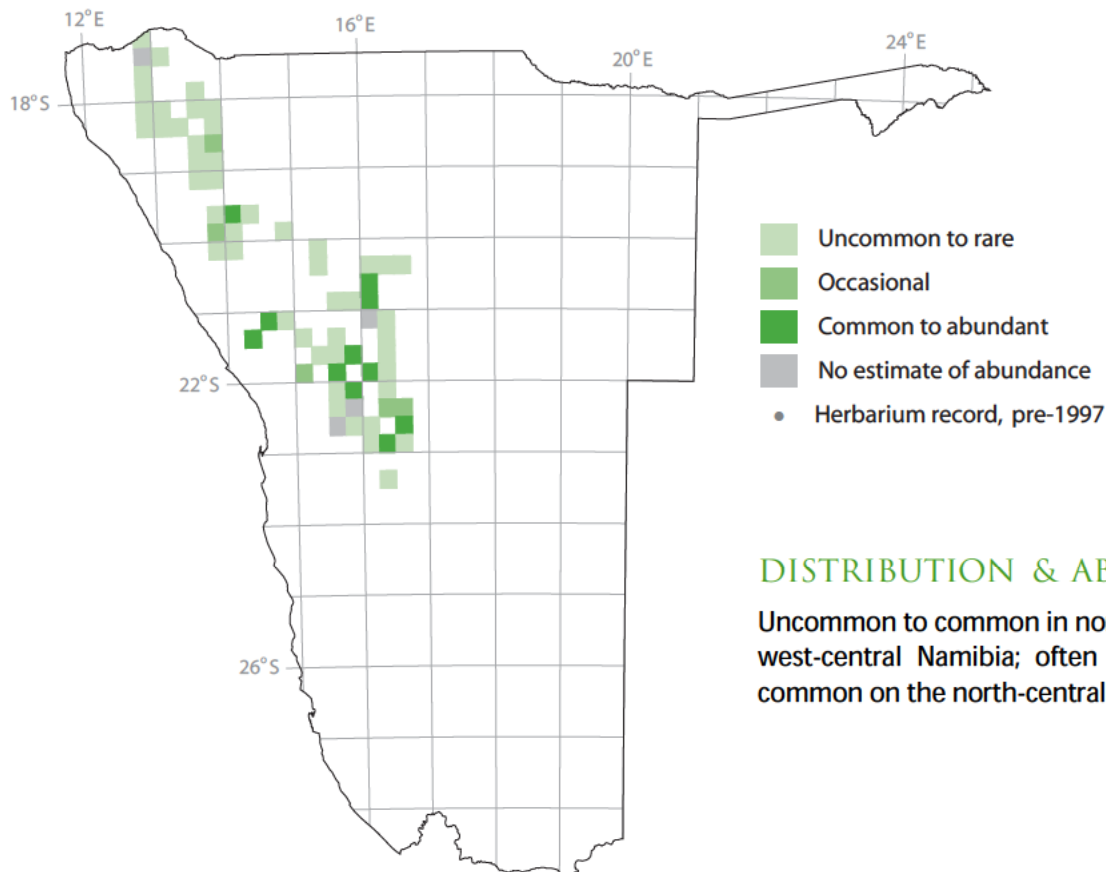
## Kobas

Omutindi (H); kowas (K)

[113 records from 67 (6%) squares]



Deciduous tree, with large succulent trunk. BARK smooth, peeling in yellowish papery strips to expose a greenish underbark. LEAVES large, succulent, trifoliate, with long petiole; bright green; margin irregularly toothed, with incisions 1–3 mm deep and spaced at 2–10 mm intervals. FLOWERS small, yellowish-green. FRUIT in clusters of red, grape-like berries.

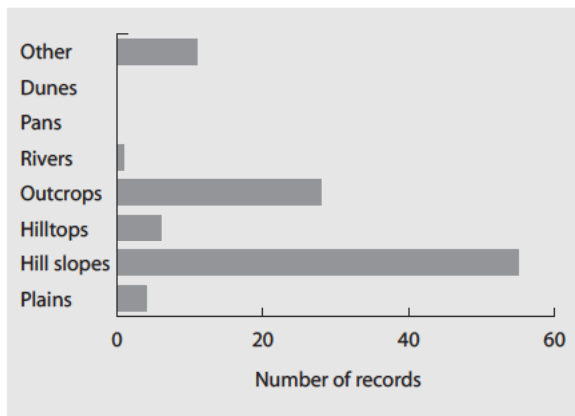


### DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Uncommon to common in north-western and west-central Namibia; often localised. Most common on the north-central plateau.

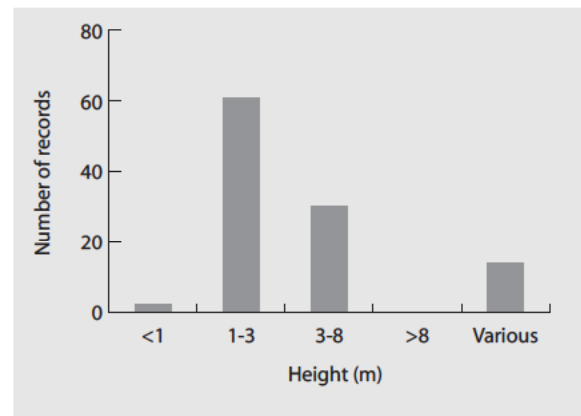
## HABITAT

Various, but most often on rocky hill slopes and rocky outcrops, often growing on steep slopes.



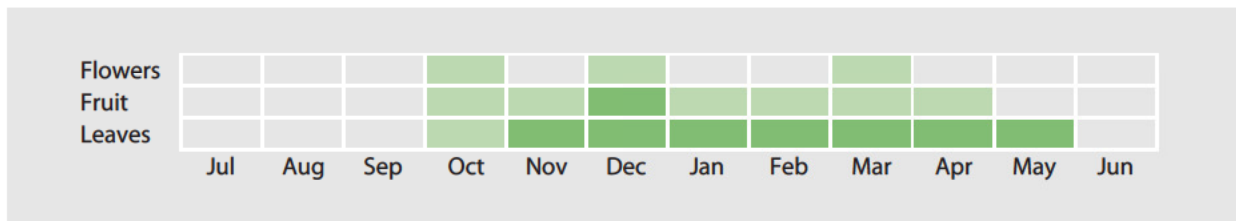
## GROWTH FORM

Described as both a shrub and a tree, most often 1–3 m high, but sometimes over 3 m.



## ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS recorded in October, December and March, but only on a few individuals each month. FRUIT individual records from October to April, but most often in December. LEAVES October to May; bare from June to September, with young leaves October to December.



## GENERAL

The berries contain oxalic-acid crystals which cause extreme irritation of the mouth and throat if eaten. The outer, papery pieces of bark are used to carry honeycombs. The sap is used to cure mange in livestock and skin diseases in people. Of great horticultural importance for dry gardens as it grows well from seeds or cuttings. Of considerable interest to specialist pachycaul collectors, with a potential export market.

## CONSERVATION CONCERN

Potentially threatened by the pachycaul trade. Protected by the Nature Conservation Ordinance.

*Cyphostemma currorii*, Kaokoveld,  
B. Curtis

