

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

Not considered a major threat as it pretty much stays in watercourses, where a good flood will wash it away. However, dense stands in slower flowing and rarely flooded areas, such as the

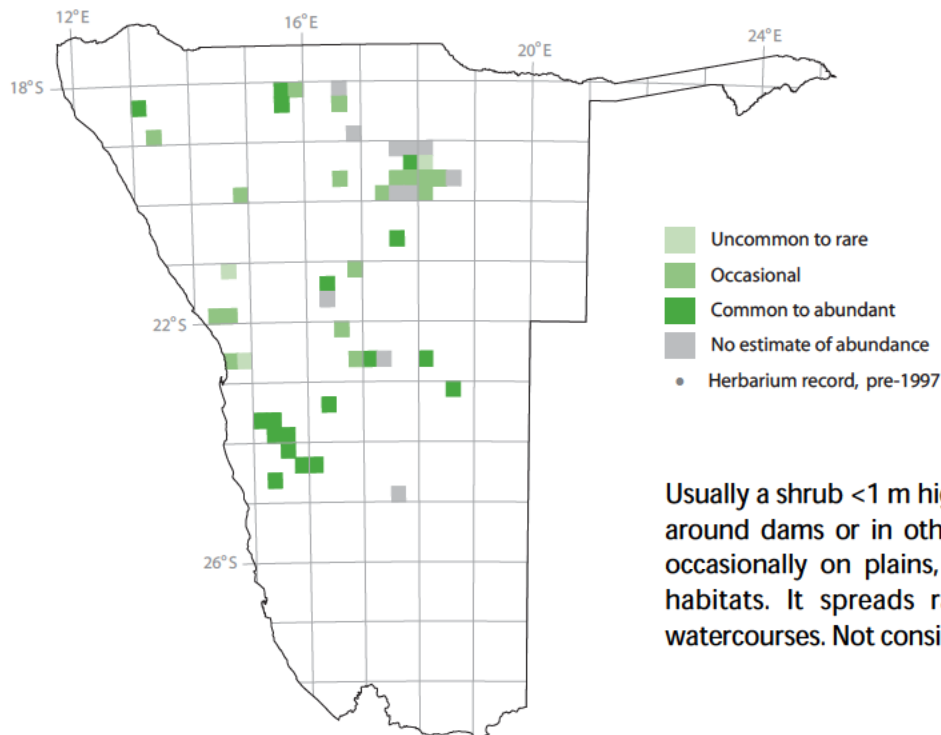
Kuiseb Delta (2314), might not be washed away, choking the watercourse and tapping the ground-water. This plant is worth investigating to see whether it out-competes indigenous vegetation.

Datura spp. | Thorn Apple

SOLANACEAE | Origin: North and Central America | [124 records from 63 squares]

Erect, robust, shrubby annual. LEAVES ovate, up to 200 mm long; on long petioles; margins coarsely and irregularly toothed or lobed; bad smelling. FLOWERS large, solitary, narrowly funnel-shaped; white to light purple. FRUIT brown, hardened **capsules covered with stout or slender, spreading spines**.

This plant is poisonous to mammals, especially the seeds, which are eaten by birds. There are three species that occur in Namibia, *D. ferox*, *D. innoxia* and *D. stramonium*.



Usually a shrub <1 m high, mostly found in rivers, around dams or in other seasonally wet places; occasionally on plains, hill slopes and in other habitats. It spreads rapidly, especially along watercourses. Not considered a threat in Namibia.