

*Ehretia coerulea*

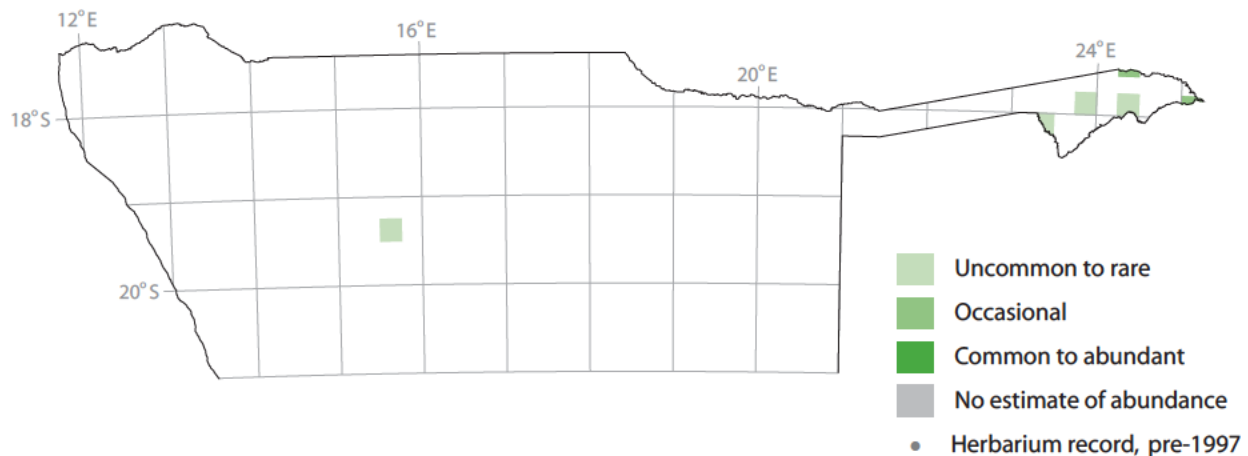
## Purple Stamperwood

[8 records from 6 (&lt;1%) squares]

Shrub or small tree, often wider than high. LEAVES obovate to broadly obovate; 40–80 mm long, both sides with glandular hairs or bristles; veins conspicuous below; margin entire or toothed on the upper half; apex rounded to almost square; base tapering, occasionally asymmetric. FLOWERS **blue to purplish-blue**, sometimes white; 7–9 mm long, **cylindrical or funnel-shaped**; calyx

with glandular bristles; showy when in profusion; sweetly scented. FRUIT a fleshy berry; round, 5–7 mm in diameter; orange, with glandular hairs.

This is a new species that was described during the TAP, and may have been overlooked by atlasers who were not aware of its existence.



## DISTRIBUTION &amp; ABUNDANCE

Uncommon in eastern Caprivi, with one TAP record from Epacha Lodge (1915BC) and one earlier herbarium specimen from the eastern Okavango River at Andara. The TAP record is a range extension (specimens LH986 and 997, HOF1); it was rare on this farm.

## HABITAT

Found on river banks and sandy plains; on a hill slope at Epacha Lodge.

## GROWTH FORM

Generally a shrub in the 1–3-m height class; less than 1 m at Epacha Lodge; also a tree of over 3 m along the Kwando River.

## ANNUAL CYCLE

No observations were made from May to September. FLOWERS recorded in October and March. FRUIT October. LEAVES present during the months of observation.

## CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.