

Elaeodendron transvaalense

= *Cassine transvaalensis*

Transvaal Saffron

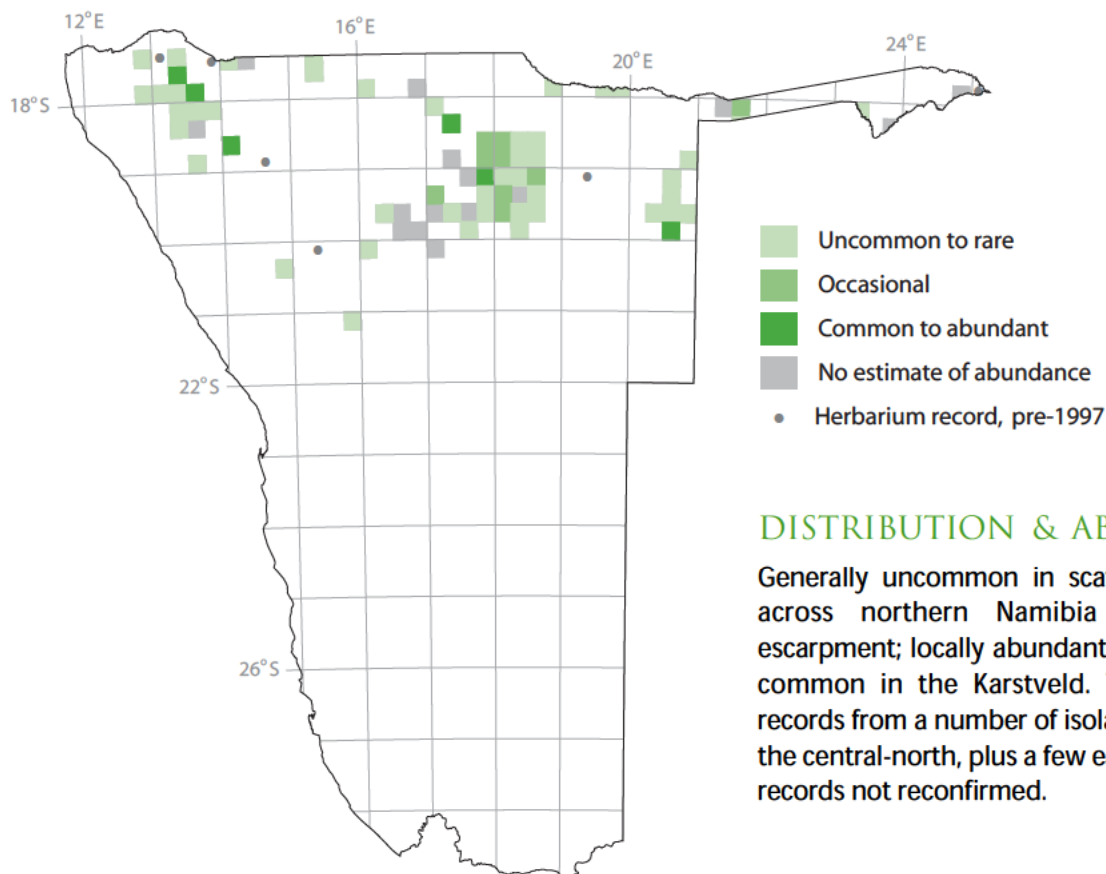
Bushveld saffron (E); lepelhout (A);
omudengambwa (Ok); soohai (K)

[190 records from 74 (7%) squares]



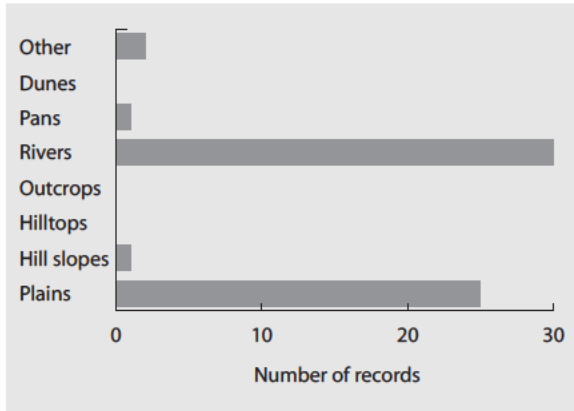
Semi-deciduous shrub or tree, with spreading crown. BARK pale to dark grey, smooth to crumbly. LEAVES simple, often **clustered on dwarf-shoots**; leaf narrowly elliptic to obovate, medium sized, **variable in shape, leathery**; dark green to dull grey-green above, margin entire or toothed. FLOWERS small, green-white. FRUIT **a small berry, broadly tapering at both ends, yellow to red-brown when ripe.**

Flowers and fruit can be overlooked.



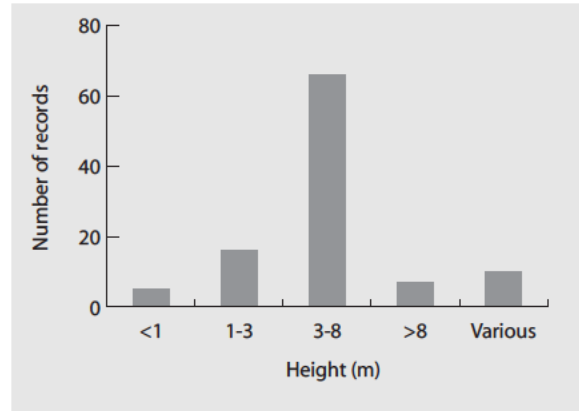
HABITAT

Mostly found on plains and in dry river courses; occasionally on floodplains or in other habitats. In the north-west, mainly along river banks; on plains in the Karstveld, and equally on both in the north-east.



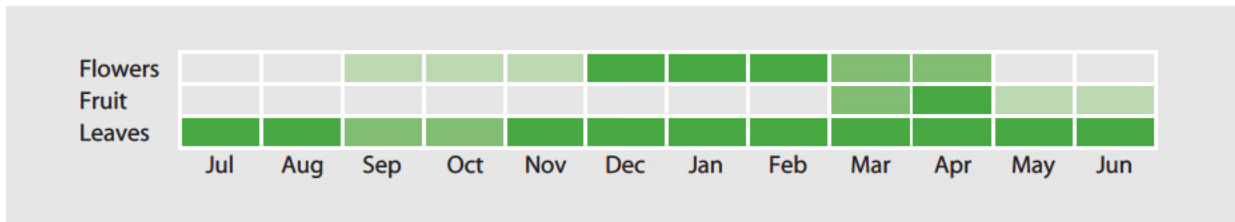
GROWTH FORM

Generally a tree up to 8 m high, seldom taller.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS September to April, but mostly from December to February. **FRUIT** March to June, although old fruit may be found all year. **LEAVES** essentially evergreen, with some bare trees in September and October.



GENERAL

Browsed by livestock and game. The bark, leaves and sap are used medicinally; the bark is also used as a tanning agent; the wood is used to make small items. This plant can be grown from seed and is drought- and frost-resistant.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded. Protected by forestry legislation.

Elaeodendron transvaalense, Kaokoveld,
B. Curtis

