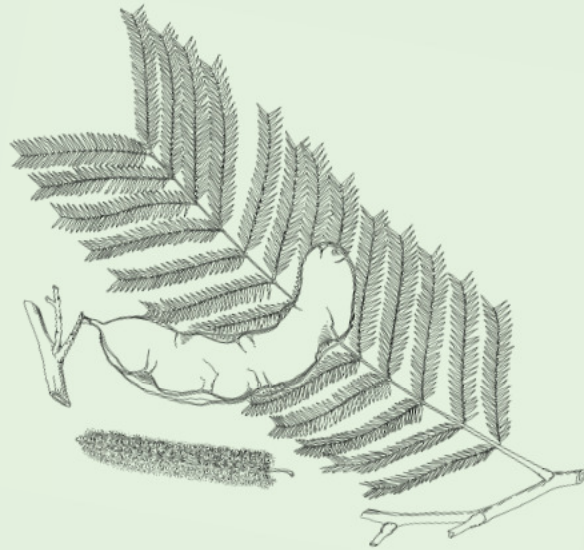


Elephantorrhiza suffruticosa

Looiwortel

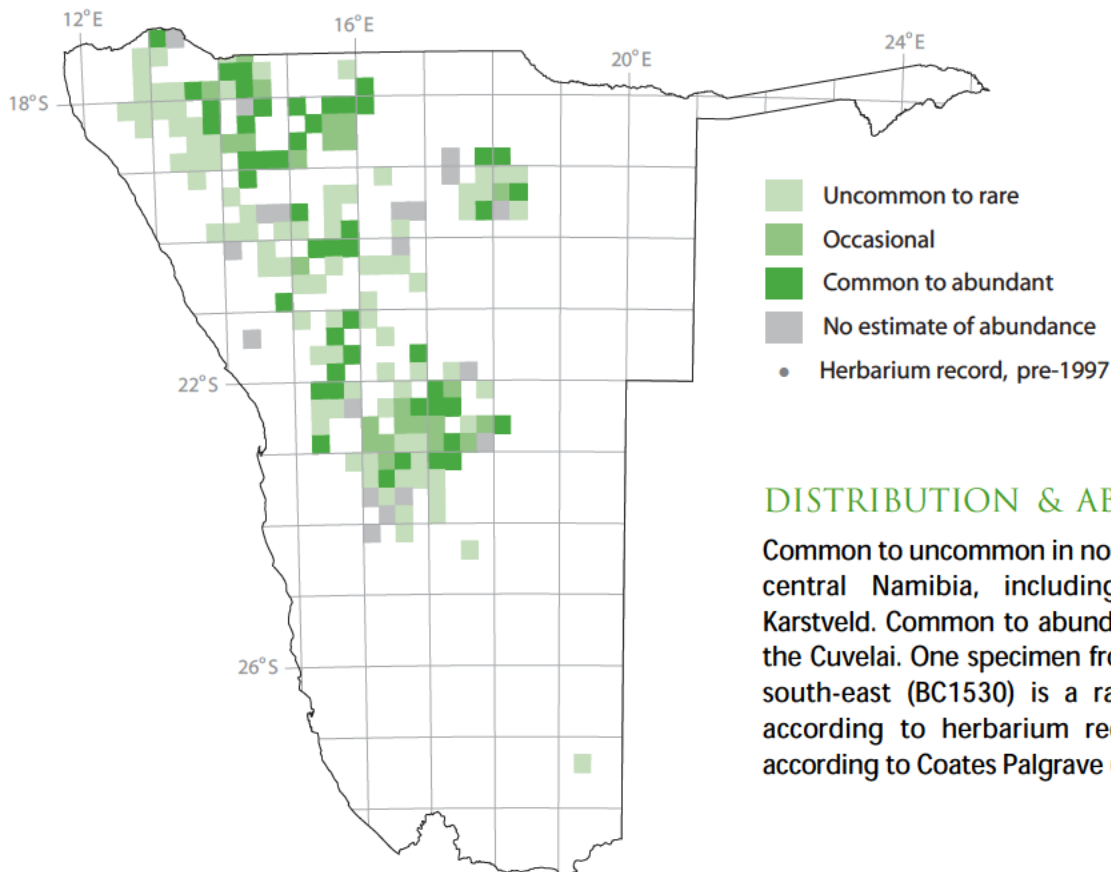
Skew-leaved Elephant-root (E);
omundjoze, otjite (H); mparara (Rum)

[356 records from 180 (17%) squares]



A deciduous shrub or many-stemmed tree. BARK grey-brown to **red-brown**. LEAVES 160–250 mm long, with 12–25 pinna pairs and 20–45 leaflet pairs; **leaflets markedly asymmetric with midrib almost along one margin**. INFLORESCENCE an axillary spike 5–15 mm long, **with golden-yellow flowers** appearing before the leaves. FRUIT a pod up to 10 mm thick; oblong, dark brown to red-brown, with persistent, thickened margins.

Can be confused with other *Elephantorrhiza* species. Flowers and pods are conspicuous.

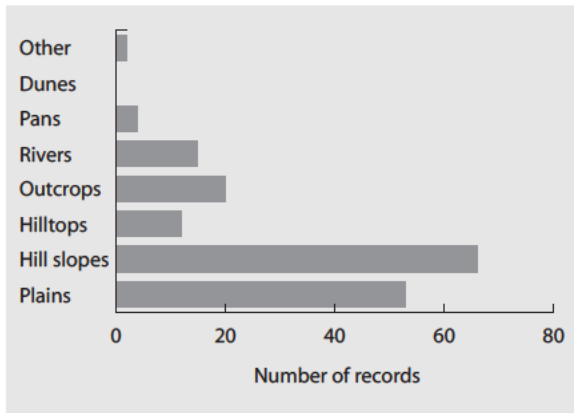


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Common to uncommon in north-western and central Namibia, including the eastern Karstveld. Common to abundant in places in the Cuvelai. One specimen from the extreme south-east (BC1530) is a range extension according to herbarium records, but not according to Coates Palgrave (2002).

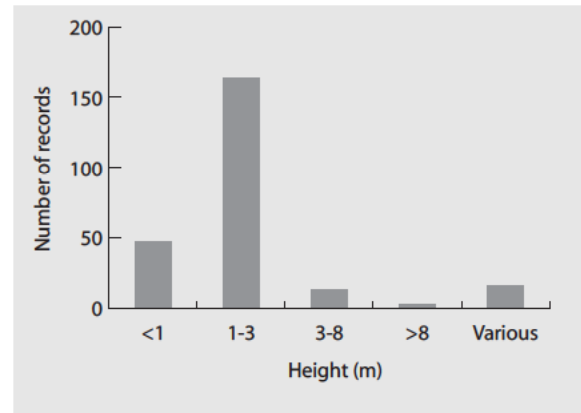
HABITAT

Various habitats, but mostly hill slopes and plains; along rivers in the north-west; on rocky outcrops in the south. Found on rocky or stony substrates.



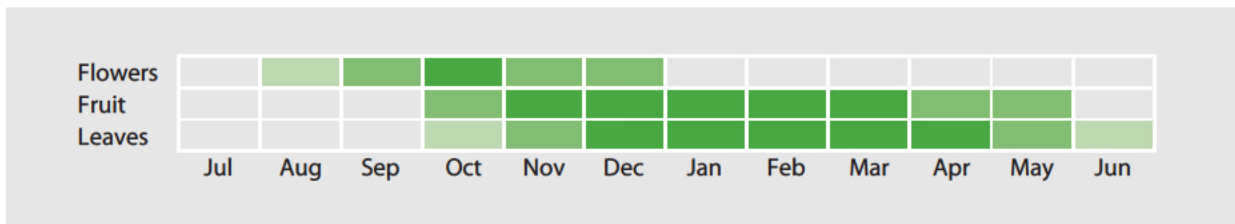
GROWTH FORM

Generally a shrub up to 3 m high, occasionally a tree up to 8 m.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS August to December, with a peak in October, and isolated records in other months. **FRUIT** October to May, with occasional records of old fruit in other months. **LEAVES** Mainly November to May, with young leaves in October and November.



GENERAL

Eaten by baboons and dassies; often defoliated by insects. Seems to grow in disturbed areas in 1920DD. Of horticultural potential due to its brilliant yellow flowers, soft foliage and lack of thorns.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.

Elephantorrhiza suffruticosa,
inflorescence, B. Curtis

