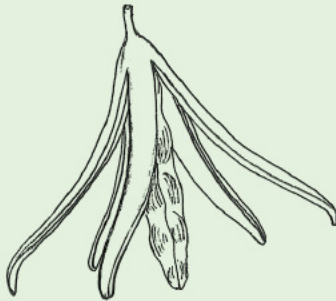


Entandrophragma spicatum

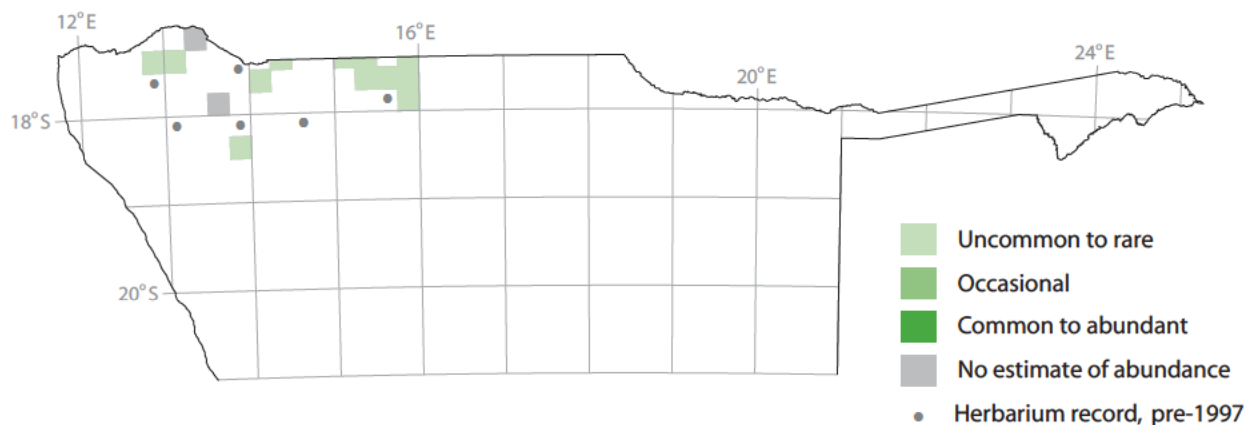
Owambo Wooden- banana

Owambo-mahonie (A); omataku (O);
ndetaku (=fruit, Ok)

[17 records from 14 (1%) squares]



Deciduous tree with spreading canopy. BARK grey, **peeling off in large pieces** to expose a yellowish underbark. LEAVES compound, **up to 160 mm long**; leaflet circular to elliptic with blunt apex and base. FRUIT a cylindrical woody capsule, splitting open to reveal a central woody column to which the seeds are attached and **resembling a peeled banana**.



DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Uncommon to rare in north-western Namibia, but extending as far east as 16° E. Earlier herbarium records indicate that it should occur slightly further south-westwards than was recorded by the TAP.

HABITAT

Found on plains, hill slopes and rocky outcrops, on both sandy and rocky substrates.

GROWTH FORM

A tree up to 8 m high and over. There is an exceptionally large tree (over 20 m high) 20 km west of Engela in the north (1715BD).

ANNUAL CYCLE

Observations for seven months only. FLOWERS never recorded or collected. FRUIT single records in February, March, May, June, August and November. LEAVES recorded most months, could be deciduous.

GENERAL

Seeds are considered poisonous, and never eaten, although a cosmetic oil is extracted from them. Small stems are used as toothbrushes, and the pod stalk is used to make snuff. An attractive species of horticultural potential for frost-free areas.

Entandrophragma spicatum, Oshana Region,
B. Curtis

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

This is a large and conspicuous species, but it occurs in very low numbers, therefore it is possible that the previously sampled trees are still there. If they have disappeared, then this species would be of conservation concern. Protected by Forestry legislation.



Entandrophragma caudatum

Caprivi Wooden-banana

Bergmahonie (A); mubana, mupumena (L)

[2 records in 2 squares]

A tall tree with **spreading canopy**. BARK **extremely rough**; flaking in **woody discs**. LEAVES compound, up to 300 mm long, hanging; leaflet ovate to lanceolate with **narrowly pointed apex and asymmetric base**. FRUIT a woody, cylindrical capsule; splitting open to reveal a **central woody column to which the seeds are attached, and resembling a peeled banana**.

Rare in the Caprivi, from which there were two TAP records (1724CB, 1725CC) and one previously collected herbarium specimen. Uncommon tree up to 25 m tall on the mainland; common tree up to 30 m tall on a rocky outcrop on Impalila Island. Old fruit recorded in November.