

Erythrina decora

Namib Coral-tree

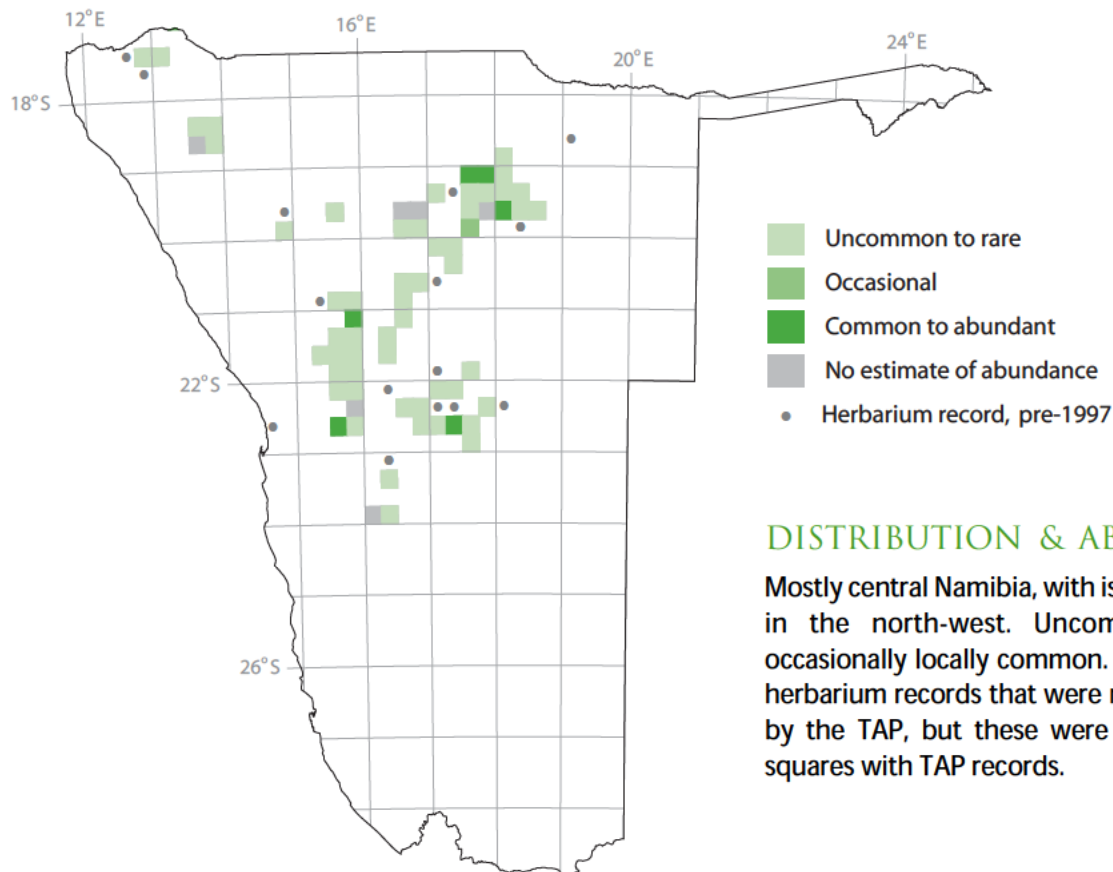
Suidweskoraalboom (A);
Korallenbaum (G); omuninga (H);
oninga (= fruit, H)

[158 records from 66 (6%) squares]



Deciduous shrub, or small to very large tree. BARK grey, **corky**. BRANCHLETS with **woolly covering** and **scattered thorns**. LEAVES **trifoliolate**; **terminal leaflet rhombic and larger than lateral leaflets, often broader than long**; **petiole, rachis and midrib armed with thorns**. INFLORESCENCE a stiff spray of bright red flowers, appearing before the leaves. FRUIT a **woody pod, conspicuously constricted between the seeds**. SEEDS **red with a black spot at point of attachment**.

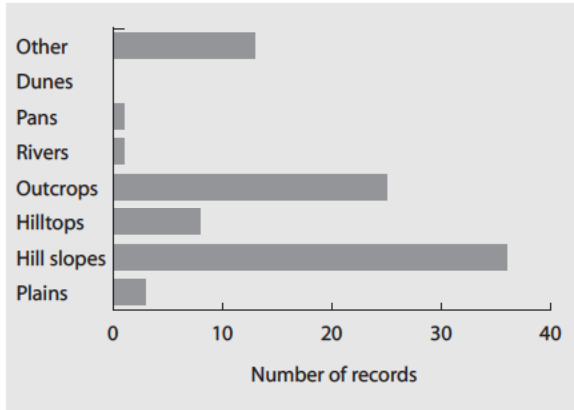
Cannot be confused with other plants. Flowers and fruit are conspicuous.

**DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE**

Mostly central Namibia, with isolated localities in the north-west. Uncommon to rare, occasionally locally common. There are a few herbarium records that were not reconfirmed by the TAP, but these were always next to squares with TAP records.

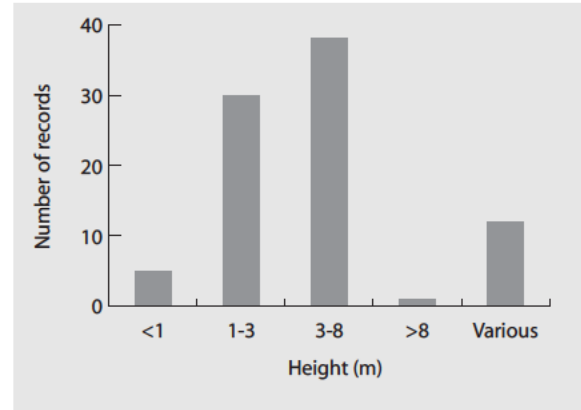
HABITAT

Mainly rocky outcrops and hill slopes, but also kloofs and gorges, especially in the central highlands.



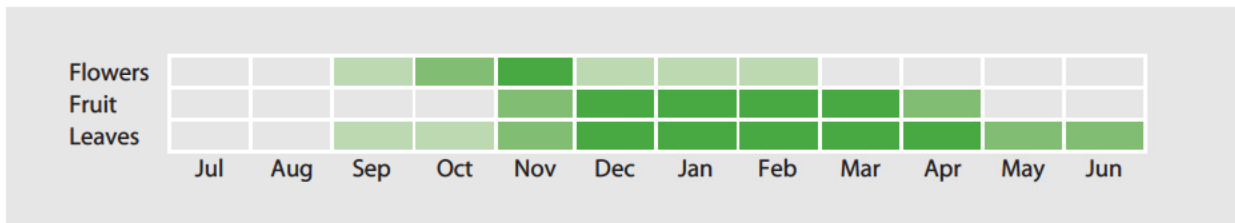
GROWTH FORM

A tree up to 8 m tall.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS September to February, with a peak in November. **FRUIT** November to April. **LEAVES** November to June, with new leaves produced in September and October.



GENERAL

Used medicinally. Although frost-sensitive, of definite horticultural potential due to the attractive flowers, fruit and seed.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

Endemic to Namibia, and very uncommon throughout its range, therefore worthy of protection. Very few young trees recorded. Protected by Forestry legislation.

Erythrina decora, E. Ellinger

