

Erythrococca menyharthii

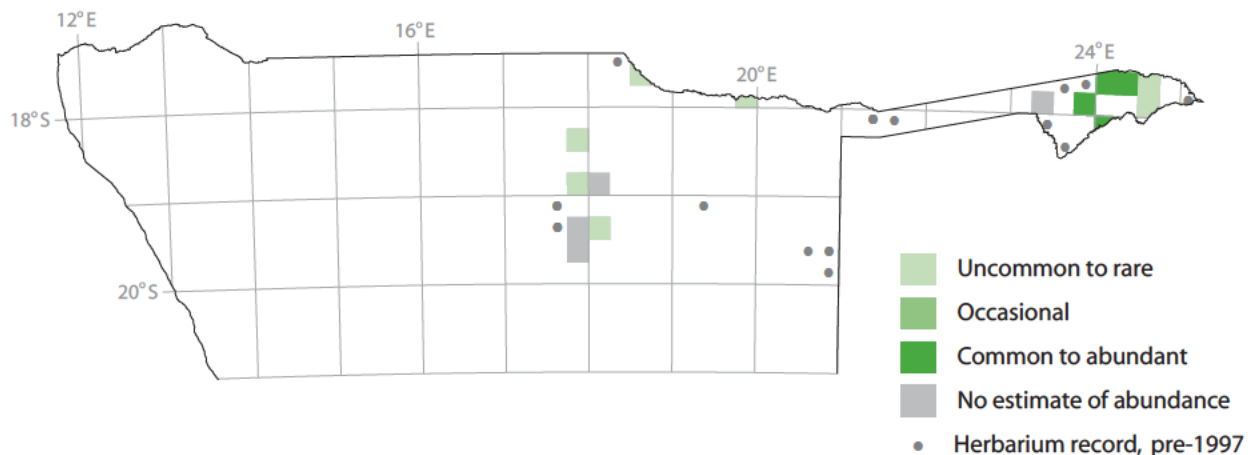
Dipoko

Northern red-berry (E)

[25 records from 16 (1%) squares]

Spindly shrub, generally fairly small. BARK pale grey, smooth, **with rough scaly buds**, tends to flake when old. LEAVES simple, elliptic to ovate-lanceolate, downy; margin toothed or entire. INFLORESCENCE **an axillary umbel**. FRUIT a **three-chambered capsule, red**; splitting open when ripe.

This plant may be overlooked unless it is in fruit, when it is very conspicuous.



DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Restricted to north-eastern Namibia. Uncommon in the eastern Karstveld and along the Okavango River; common in eastern Caprivi. There are earlier herbarium records from the Andara-Popa Falls and the Nyae Nyae areas, which were not confirmed by the TAP.

HABITAT

Found on plains and river banks in the north-east, and on dolomite hill slopes in the Karstveld. Grows on sand or stone.

GROWTH FORM

A shrub in the 1–3-m height class.

ANNUAL CYCLE

No observations were made from May to September. FLOWERS recorded from October to March. FRUIT recorded from December to May. LEAVES were present in all months for which there were observations (October to April).

GENERAL

The leaves of this plant are cooked and eaten as a vegetable, or added to dishes to spice them up.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

The population could be declining, but it is more likely that this species was overlooked.