

*Euphorbia
espinosa*Peeling-bark Woody-
euphorbia

[no TAP records]

Shrub or small tree, often twiggy, with succulent stems. BARK olive-green, with yellow, papery peel. LEAVES oblong to elliptic. FLOWERS greenish-yellow. FRUIT a small, blue-green, three-lobed capsule.

There were no TAP records, but earlier herbarium records came from the Okavango River or nearby (1719CD, 1821AB, BA and 1918CA). Listed on CITES Appendix II.

*Euphorbia
matabelensis*

Sivaradi

Three-forked euphorbia (E)

[3 records from 3 squares]

A shrub or small tree with spine-tipped branches. LEAVES small, in clusters. FLOWERS greenish-yellow, in dense heads. FRUIT a small, three-lobed capsule.

This plant was recorded from the Hartmann's Valley in the north-west (1712AA, AC) and 1718CB as an uncommon shrub up to and just over 1 m. Earlier herbarium records come from the north-west (1712CB and 1813CC) and eastern Caprivi (1723CB, DB and 1714AD). Listed on CITES Appendix II.

*Euphorbia
venenata*Karst Candelabra-
euphorbia

Karst-kandelabra Euphorbie (G)

[6 records from 4 squares]

Many-stemmed, spiny, succulent grey-green shrub with milky latex. BRANCHES simple, sometimes branched near tip; **six-angled**, deeply furrowed, **sharply constricted at intervals, segments broadest at base**. THORNS straight, paired, about 5 mm long. INFLORESCENCE three yellow cyathia borne together. FRUIT a three-angled capsule, about 5 mm in diameter.

An extremely uncommon species from a few scattered localities in central-northern Namibia. Recorded as a shrub of less than 3 m, growing chiefly on plains, but also on hill slopes. Flowers recorded in September and December. Fruit in September. There are only four herbarium specimens of *E. venenata* (1814CA, 1915BD, 1917BA and CC).

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

Euphorbia venenata is endemic to Namibia. It is listed as a CITES Appendix II species and has been assessed as 'data-deficient' according to the latest IUCN criteria (Loots 2005).