

*Euphorbia virosa*

## Candelabra Euphorbia

Gifboom (A);  
Kandelaberwolfsmilch (G); eyao (H);  
||khaos (K); oshilalanamwadi (O)

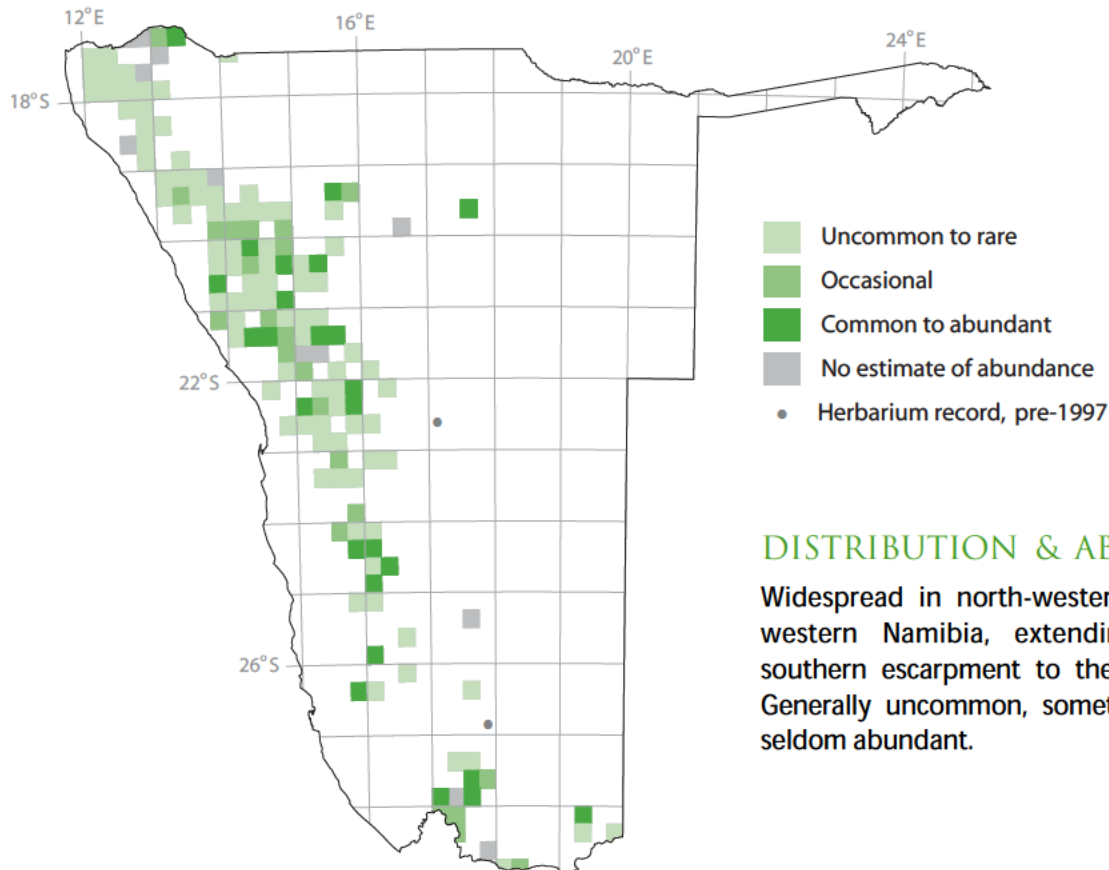
[349 records from 150 (14%) squares]



See page 316 for photo  
of flowers and fruit.

Many-stemmed, spiny, succulent, grey-green shrub with milky latex; often broader than tall. BRANCHES unbranched or laxly branched in upper portions; **lower stem spirally contorted, branches 5–8-angled with deep furrows; constricted at intervals to form symmetrical segments widest near middle.** THORNS straight, paired, rigid, 11–13 mm long. INFLORESCENCE a yellow cyathium, up to 18 mm in diameter; **borne singly between the thorns of each spine-pair, falling to leave one scar.** FRUIT a vaguely three-angled to rounded capsule; up to 18 mm across, smaller when dry; maroon-purple, drying to light brown.

Similar to *E. avasmontana*, which has much smaller flowers, in cyathia clustered in threes.

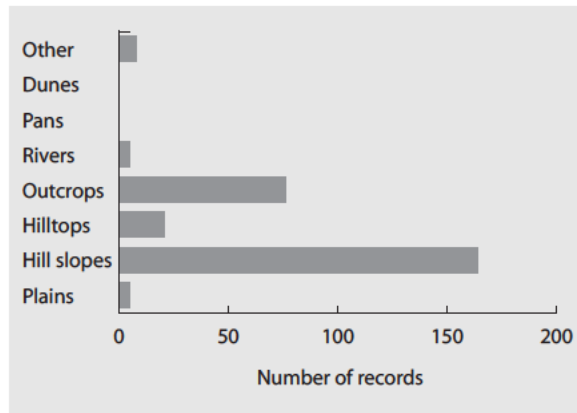


## DISTRIBUTION &amp; ABUNDANCE

Widespread in north-western and central-western Namibia, extending along the southern escarpment to the Orange River. Generally uncommon, sometimes common, seldom abundant.

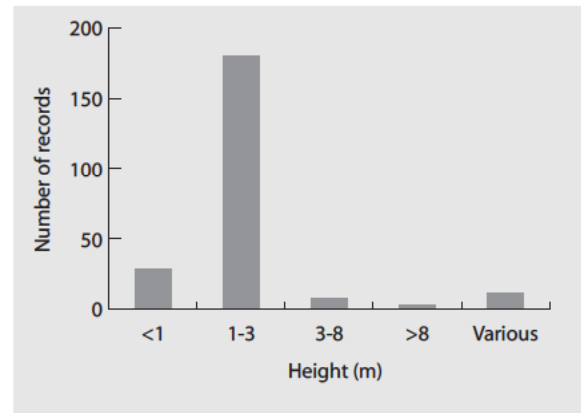
## HABITAT

Predominantly found on rocky hill slopes, but also rocky outcrops in the north-west and central-west; sometimes on hilltops in the north-west.



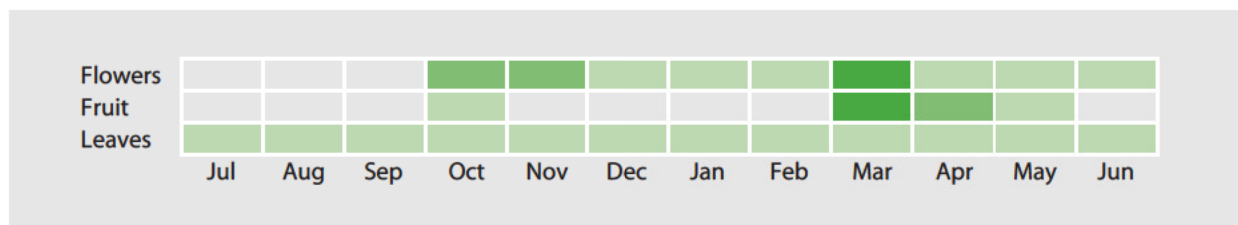
## GROWTH FORM

A stem-succulent shrub, generally less than 3 m high; occasionally taller.



## ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS October to June, but mostly in March. FRUIT generally March, but other months too. LEAVES tiny leaves at the ends of branches can be found on some individuals most of the year.



## GENERAL

The latex is extremely irritant. Poisonous to most animals, but black rhino browse on these plants.

## CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded, but listed as a CITES Appendix II species.

*Euphorbia virosa*, Brandberg, S. Bethune

