

Faidherbia albida= *Acacia albida*

Anaboom

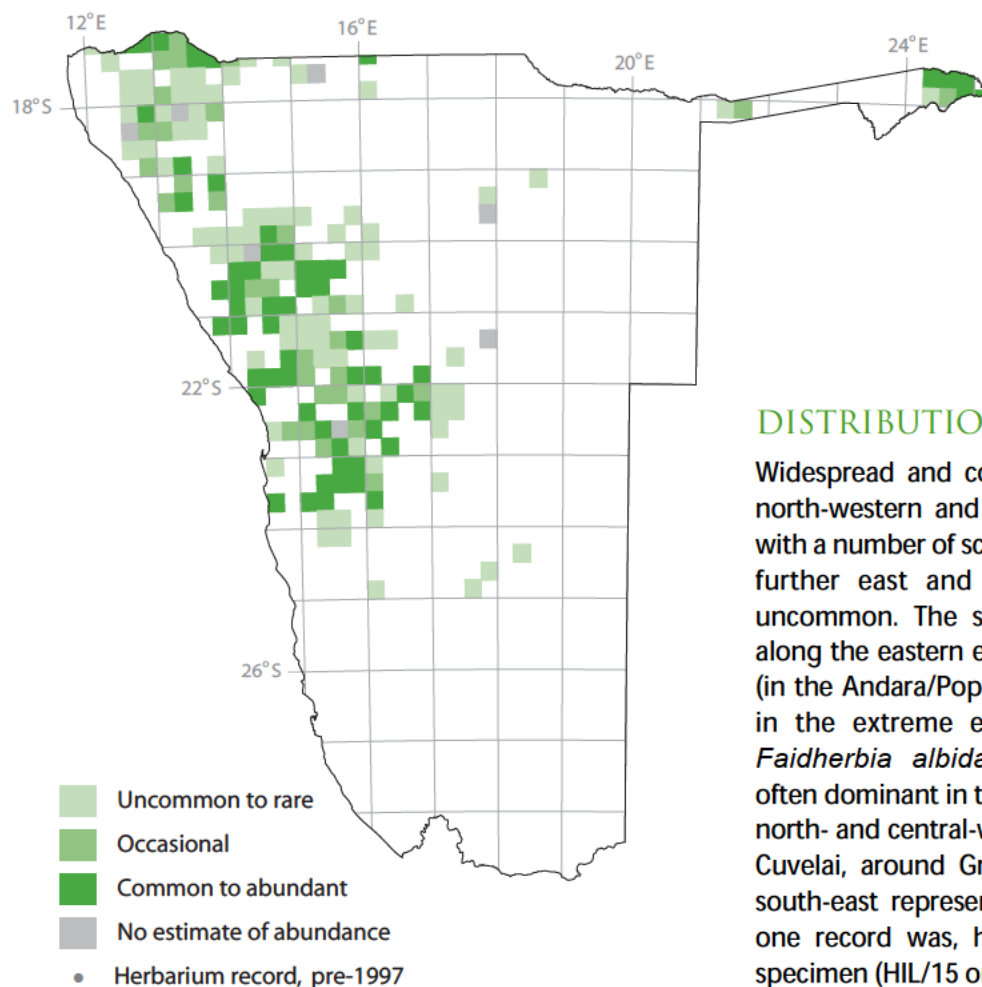
Winter-thorn, ana tree (E); Anabaum (G); omue (H); mbunga (L); anas (K)

[535 records from 190 (18%) squares]



A tall, riverine tree often found in ephemeral rivers. BARK grey and fissured; younger branches white and smooth. THORNS straight, paired, short, held at a characteristic angle. LEAVES produced in winter and dropped in the wet season. FLOWERS yellow, in spikes. FRUIT a broad, woody pod, coiled, orange-red.

Flowers and fruit are conspicuous. With its white branches, large, orange pods and 'reverse' annual cycle, it cannot be confused with any *Acacia* species.

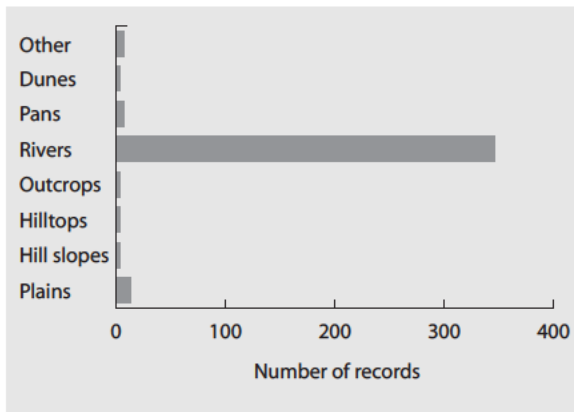


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Widespread and common to uncommon in north-western and central-western Namibia, with a number of scattered records somewhat further east and south-east, where it is uncommon. The species is also occasional along the eastern end of the Okavango River (in the Andara/Popa Falls area) and common in the extreme eastern areas of Caprivi. *Faidherbia albida* is most abundant and often dominant in the ephemeral rivers of the north- and central-west. The records from the Cuvelai, around Grootfontein and from the south-east represent range extensions; only one record was, however, confirmed by a specimen (HIL/15 on Farm Hurisib in 1917BD).

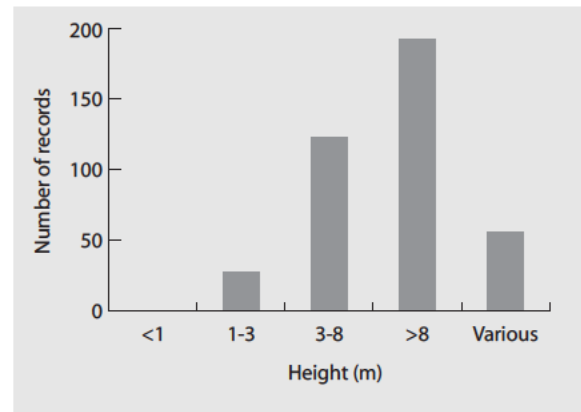
HABITAT

Generally growing in dry rivers and along the banks of perennial rivers, also on floodplains along the Okavango River and in eastern Caprivi. Individual trees are quite often found along road verges where water collects – presumably introduced there by cattle being herded from place to place.



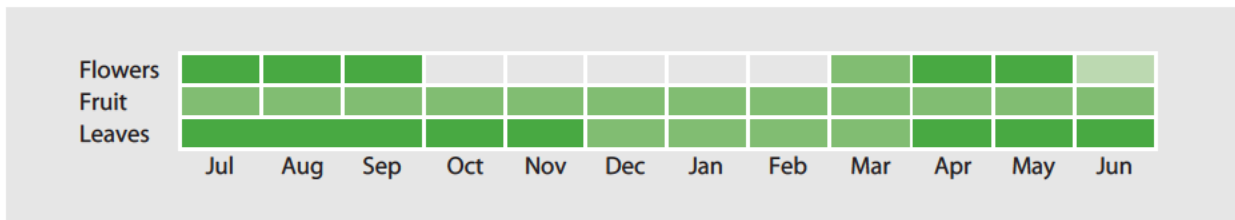
GROWTH FORM

A tree over 8 m high, with a number of individuals 3–8 m high, but relatively few stands with trees of various heights were recorded.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS mostly between March and September, with two flowering peaks, but the occasional flower can be found at any time of year. There was a marked flowering peak in April 2000 in the north-west, when this area had good late rains. FRUIT present all year round. LEAVES essentially evergreen, but with a substantial proportion of the leaves on every tree being shed in the summer, from December to March, and new leaves produced from July to September.



GENERAL

Livestock and game eat the leaves and pods. Bark is used medicinally and the seeds can be roasted and used as a coffee substitute. It was introduced into the Caprivi, Kavango and central northern regions as part of an agro-forestry project in the mid-1990s (HOR2). Although it strongly resembles *Acacia* spp. and was formerly a member of that genus, there are a number of taxonomic differences between *Faidherbia* and *Acacia*. The fact that it flowers and produces new leaves in winter is an important ecological difference.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

The dams on the Swakop River appear to be having an adverse impact on these trees (BET1). Protected by forestry legislation.