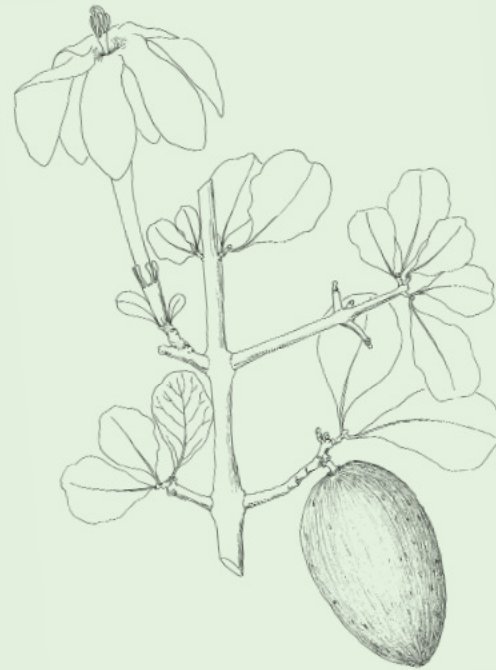


Gardenia volkensii

Chibungu

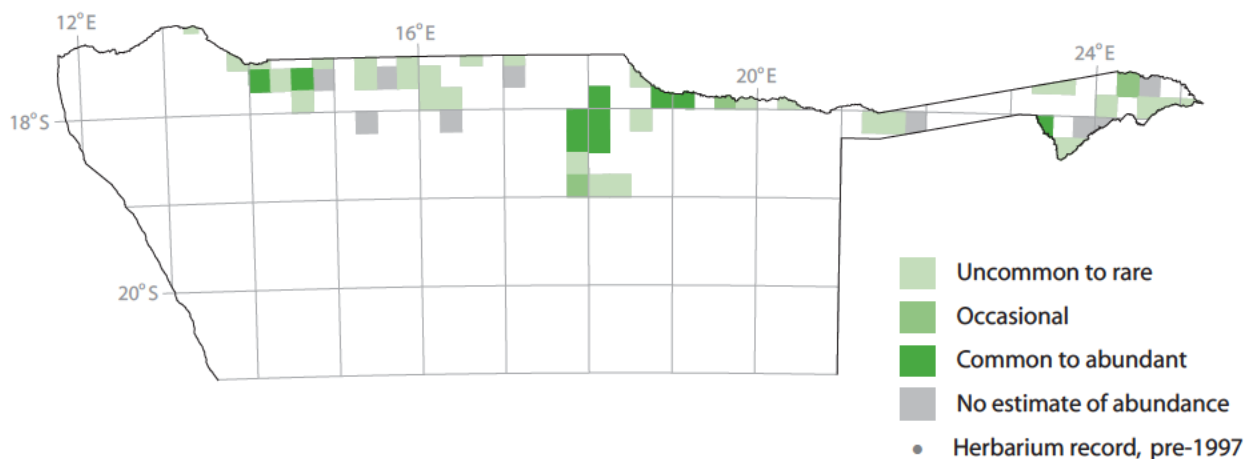
Savanna gardenia (E);
bosveldkatjiepiering (A);
omundana (H); omulayi (O);
muravi (Rk, Rum); muthiothio (T)

[93 records from 55 (5%) squares]



Deciduous shrub or tree. BARK pale grey. LEAVES often **clustered** or **whorled** in **threes** on short, **stubby** branchlets that are also whorled in threes; obovate and tapering down the petiole, papery; domatia often conspicuous; shiny green above, paler below and finely downy; margin very wavy. FLOWERS very large; tubular with spreading and recurved corolla lobes; white turning to yellowish-cream; corolla up to 80 mm across, corolla tube up to 80 mm long; strongly scented. FRUIT **ovoid** to almost **spherical**, **up to 70 mm in diameter**; woody, warty, with raised, whitish dots and **vertical grooves**, up to 70 mm in diameter; greyish when ripe.

Two subspecies, *spathulifolia* and *volkensii* occur in Namibia, but they have not been differentiated by the TAP.

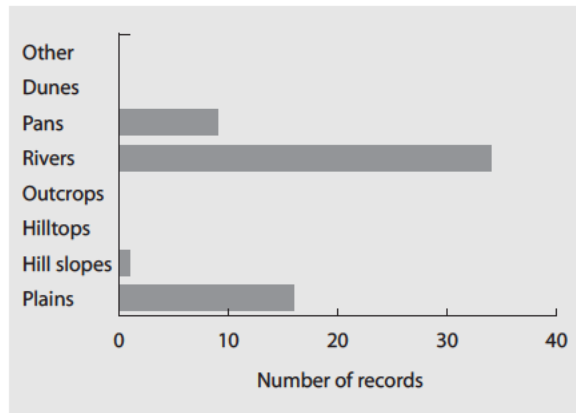


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Generally uncommon, but fairly widespread across the far northern parts of Namibia, from the Kunene River to eastern Caprivi; common in places in Kavango. The range has been extended slightly to the south (specimens FRI2/14 and HIL1/064).

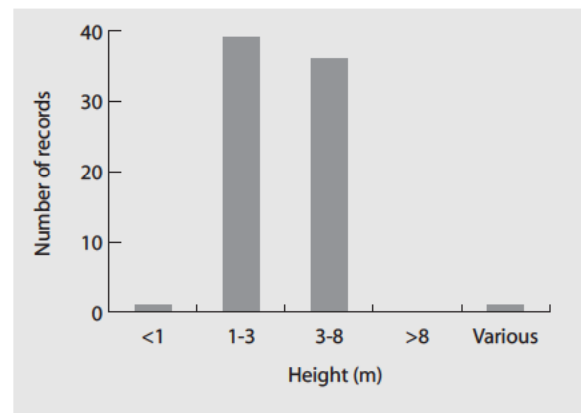
HABITAT

Mostly found on sandy soils in forest savanna and woodlands along river banks and on plains, as well as along the edges of pans and oshanas, where water collects seasonally.



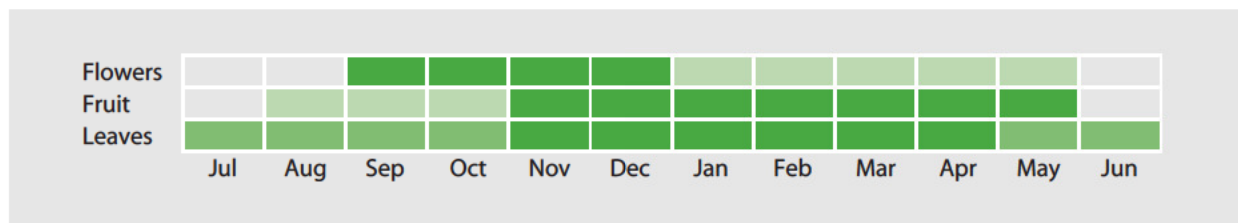
GROWTH FORM

Mostly recorded as a tree 1–8 m high, but also as a shrub in the 1–3-m category.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS mostly from September to December, but up till May some years. **FRUIT** August to May. **LEAVES** recorded every month, but mostly from November to April, with new leaves in October.



GENERAL

Browsed by game and livestock. The wood is extremely hard and is used for carving. Wood and roots used medicinally. Fruit eaten as porridge. Branches placed on thatched roofs are believed to protect the building against lightning. The plant is of horticultural potential for frost-free areas because of its lovely flowers.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.



Gardenia volkensii, Caprivi Region, B. Curtis