

Grewia bicolor

Omundjembere

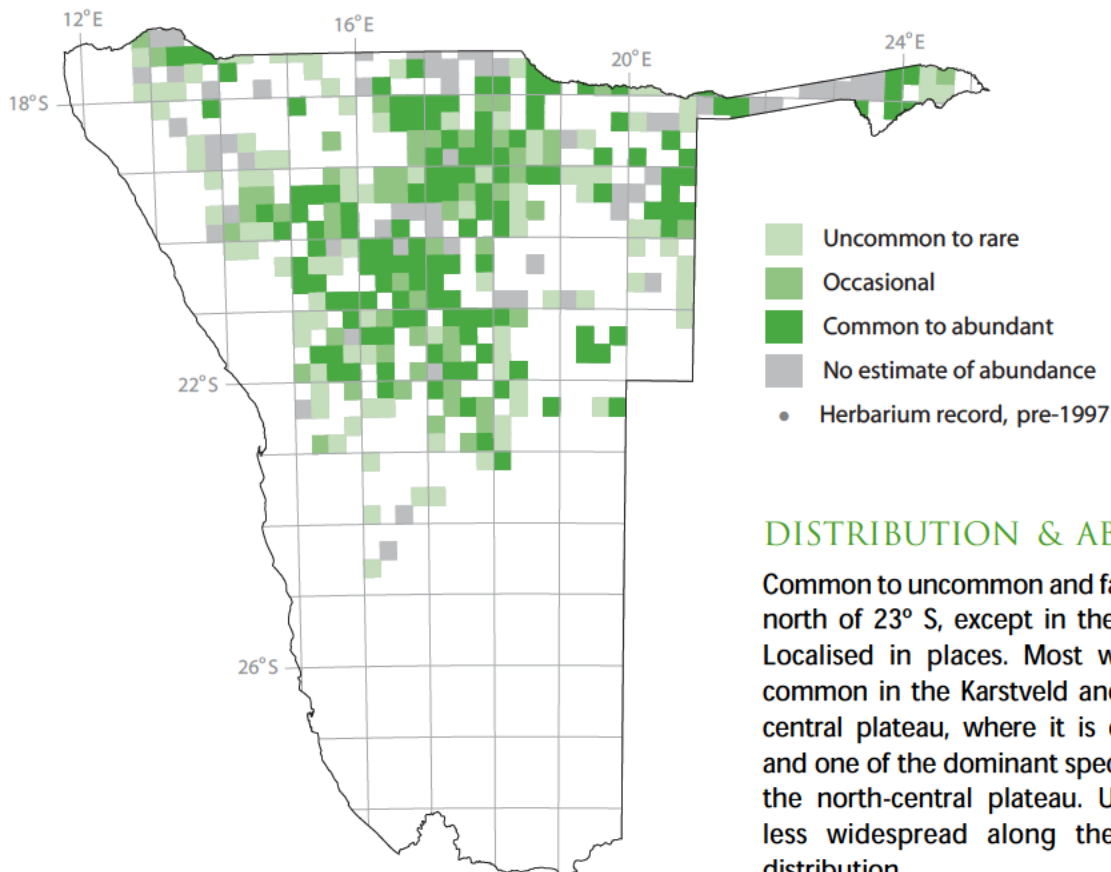
Two-coloured raisin-bush (E);
basterrosyntjie (A); Zweifarbiger
Rosinenstrauch (G); muwhana (L);
omuhonga (O); ngogo (Rk, Rum)

[751 records from 355 (33%) squares]



Slender shrub or small tree. LEAVES held horizontally in one plane or **drooping**; dark green above; **grey to white, densely woolly below**; margin coarsely toothed; **base asymmetrically blunt** to slightly heart-shaped. FLOWERS yellow, **2–3 per stalk**. FRUIT a 2–3-lobed berry, 3–5 mm in diameter; yellow or orange to red-brown when ripe; **on a branched stalk**.

Flowers and fruit are conspicuous. Small-leaved forms are easily confused with *G. flava*, but may be distinguished by the branched flower and fruit stalks and more drooping leaves. Large-leaved forms may be confused with *G. falcistipula* and *G. subspathulata*. *Grewia falcistipula* never has bilobed fruit, generally a more asymmetrical, cordate-based leaf and its characteristic sickle-shaped stipules are a giveaway, when present. *Grewia subspathulata* generally has much larger leaves than those of *G. bicolor*.

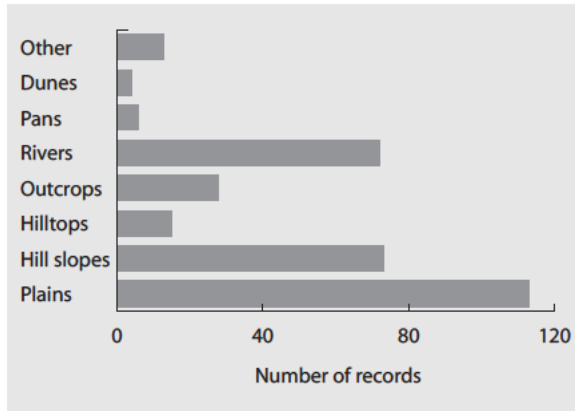


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Common to uncommon and fairly widespread north of 23° S, except in the Namib Desert. Localised in places. Most widespread and common in the Karstveld and on the north-central plateau, where it is often abundant and one of the dominant species in places on the north-central plateau. Uncommon and less widespread along the edges of its distribution.

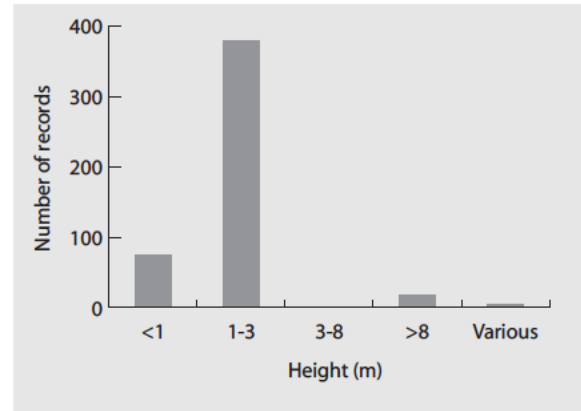
HABITAT

Found in most habitats, but mainly on plains, along dry rivers and on hill slopes; sometimes on rocky outcrops, especially in the central highlands. Substrates included sand, calcrete, stones and rock.



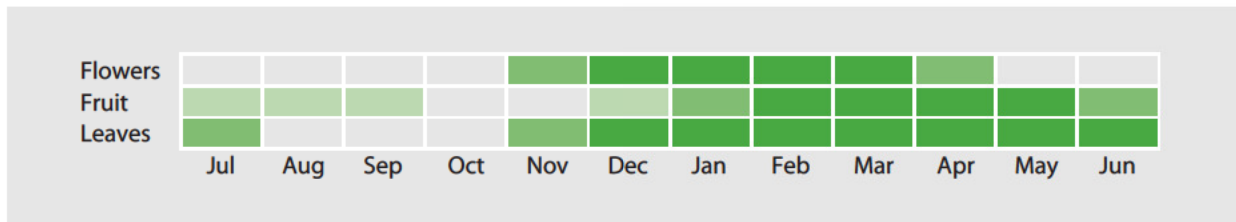
GROWTH FORM

Usually a shrub (98% of records) up to 3 m high (96%); occasionally a shrub or tree (2%) over 3 m (4%).



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS November to April. **FRUIT** mostly January to June, some found most of the year. **LEAVES** mainly December to June, with young leaves from September to December.



GENERAL

Goats and game browse the leaves; rhino and giraffe browse the leaves and twigs; the fruit is also eaten by animals. People eat the fruit fresh or make an alcoholic beverage from it; excessive consumption of the fruit may cause constipation. The roots are used medicinally.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.

Grewia bicolor growing on termite mound, Oshana Region, B. Curtis

