

# *Gymnosporia senegalensis*

= *Maytenus senegalensis*

## Bloupendoring

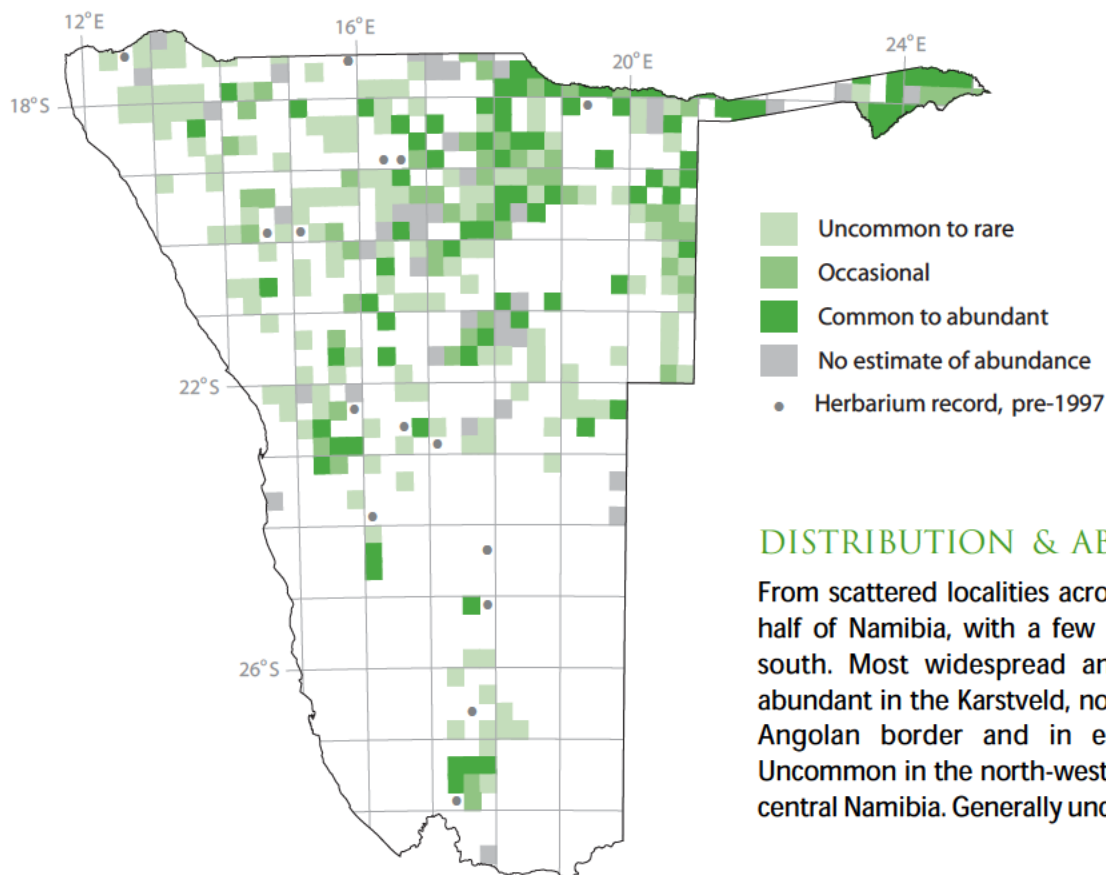
Confetti spike-thorn (E);  
omutungambara (H); !goo!goob (K);  
omungonze (O); mungorwe (Rk, Rum),  
mutungambara (T)

[632 records from 339 (32%) squares]



Semi-deciduous shrub, seldom a tree. BARK light grey, relatively smooth; **young branchlets reddish to brown**. THORNS straight, up to 70 mm long. LEAVES often clustered on spines; **petiole initially plum-red**; leaf oblanceolate to oblong, 30–125 mm long; thick and leathery; lead-grey, with a dull, waxy coating, veins prominent; **midrib often red-tinged**; margin finely toothed. FLOWERS small, cream-coloured to green-white, sweetly scented. FRUIT up to 6 mm in diameter, **two-lobed**, greenish with a pink tinge, becoming reddish brown.

Flowers and fruit are obvious. Species can be confused with *G. buxifolia*. (See *G. buxifolia* for differences.)

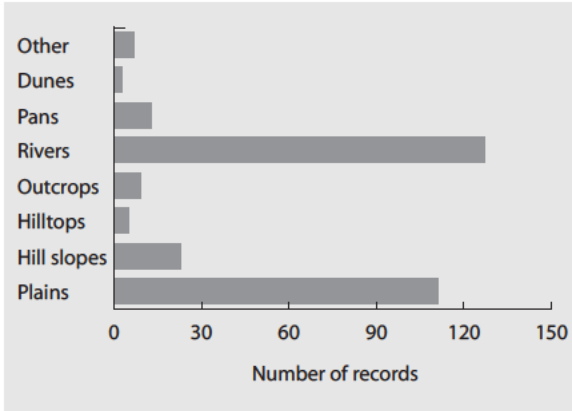


## DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

From scattered localities across the northern half of Namibia, with a few localities in the south. Most widespread and common to abundant in the Karstveld, northwards to the Angolan border and in eastern Caprivi. Uncommon in the north-west, and south and central Namibia. Generally uncommon overall.

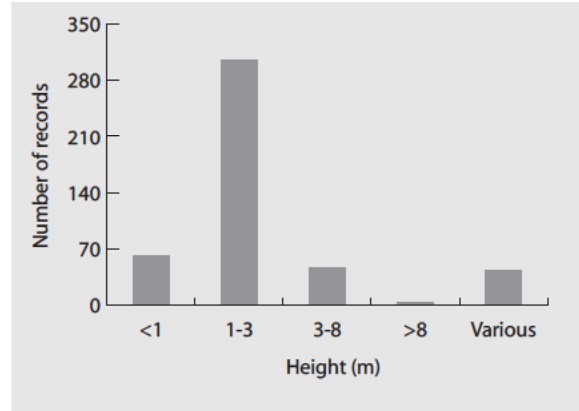
### HABITAT

Found in various habitats, but mostly on plains and along rivers; also on hill slopes on the north-central plateau, and around pans in the north-east. Generally growing on sand, sometimes calcrete.



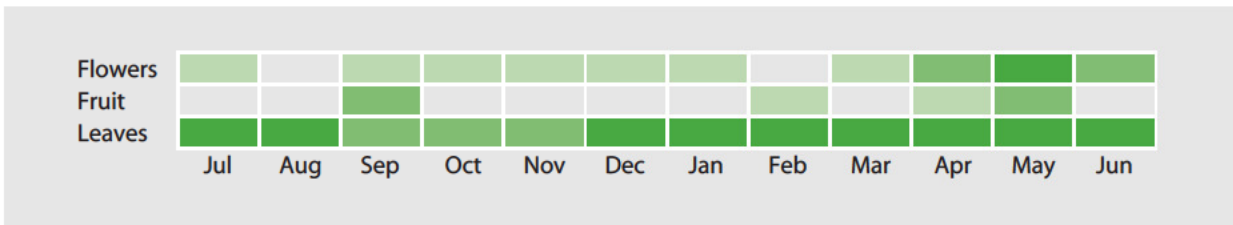
### GROWTH FORM

Generally a shrub (92% of records) up to 3 m high (66% of records) but often higher. Tree forms mostly in the 3–8-m height class.



### ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS a few records almost all year, but mostly in May. FRUIT a few records almost every month; never many plants with fruit recorded, but the highest months were September and May. LEAVES virtually all year round, with some bare individuals noted from September to October and young leaves from October to November.



### GENERAL

Browsed by rhino; generally not browsed much by livestock in the more arid parts, but is sometimes; in the wetter areas it is an important fodder species. The roots are used medicinally for heart disorders and other complaints, as well as an aphrodisiac.

### CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.

*Gymnosporia senegalensis*, Omaheke Region, C. Mannheimer

