

*Kirkia acuminata*

## Common Kirkia

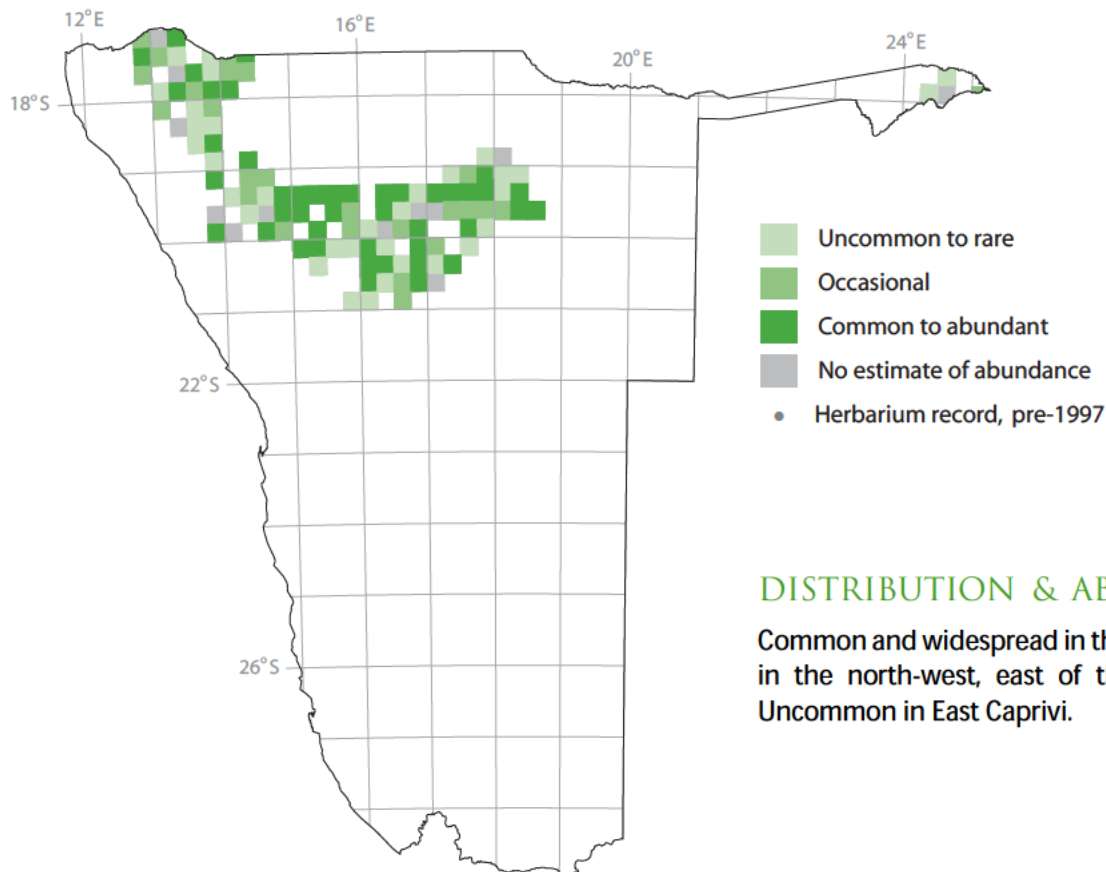
Bergsering, witsering (A); Bergseringe (G); Igurueb (K); mulembalemba (L); omulemba (OK)

[325 records from 117 (11%) squares]



Deciduous tree with spreading crown. BARK **pale grey, crumbly, grooved; dark grey to charcoal underbark.** LEAVES compound, **clustered on tips of branchlets**, up to 400 mm long; leaflet with **very short petiolules**; lanceolate to narrowly ovate, **longitudinally folded**, shiny green to dark green; **margin toothed; apex pointed.** FLOWERS small, greenish to cream-coloured in long sprays. FRUIT a somewhat **four-sided, woody capsule, with sharp ridges in the corners**, splitting into four valves when ripe; c. 15 x 8 mm.

This tree may be confused with *Commiphora crenato-serrata* from a distance, but can be distinguished by the darker, crumbly bark and very short petiolules, as well as the fruit.

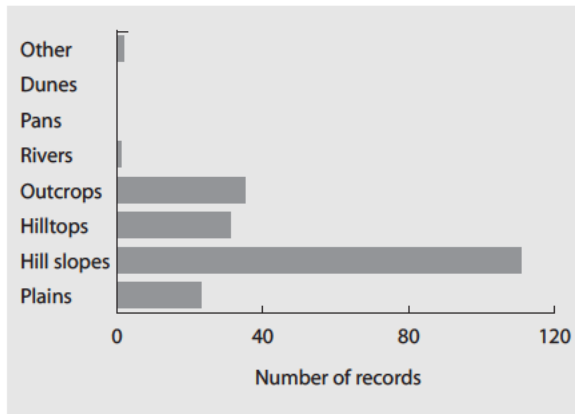


## DISTRIBUTION &amp; ABUNDANCE

Common and widespread in the Karstveld and in the north-west, east of the escarpment. Uncommon in East Caprivi.

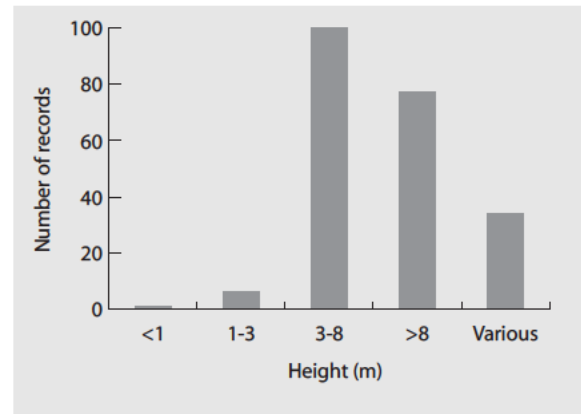
## HABITAT

Found on hill slopes and rocky outcrops, predominantly on dolomite.



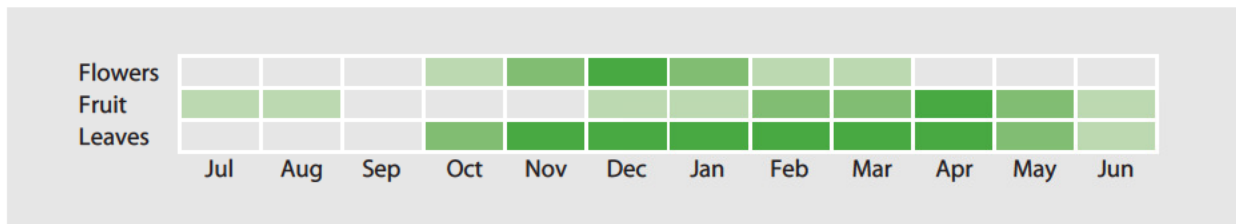
## GROWTH FORM

A tree up to 8 m high and over. Very few young ones recorded.



## ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS October to March, with a peak in December. FRUIT December to August, with a peak in April. LEAVES mainly from October to May, with young leaves September to November.



## GENERAL

Browsed by giraffe; monkeys eat the fruit. Does well as a garden tree in frost-free areas or in very sheltered spots elsewhere.

## CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.

*Kirkia acuminata*, northwest plateau, B. Curtis

