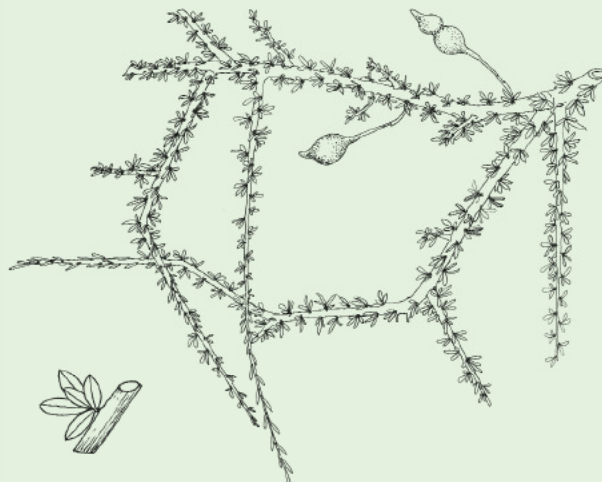


*Maerua parvifolia*

## Small-leaved Maerua

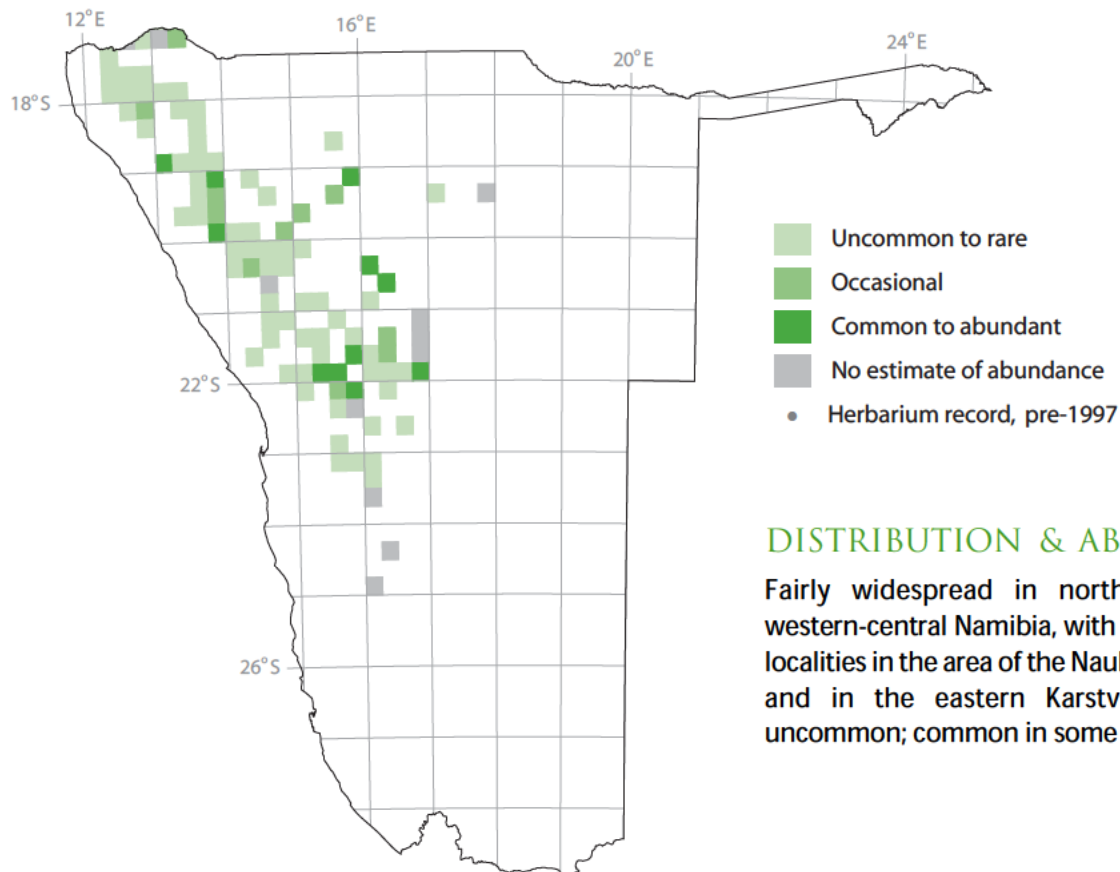
Otjinautoni (H); /ahaib (K)

[198 records from 103 (10%) squares]



Evergreen shrub or shrubby tree. BARK grey, fairly smooth; young branchlets grey-white. LEAVES simple, spirally arranged or clustered on lateral dwarf shoots; oblong-lanceolate to narrowly obovate, up to 10 mm long and 3 mm wide, thick and leathery; grey-green. FLOWERS solitary or paired on lateral dwarf shoots, pedicels up to 10 mm long; stamens numerous. FRUIT **irregularly cylindrical, constricted between seeds**.

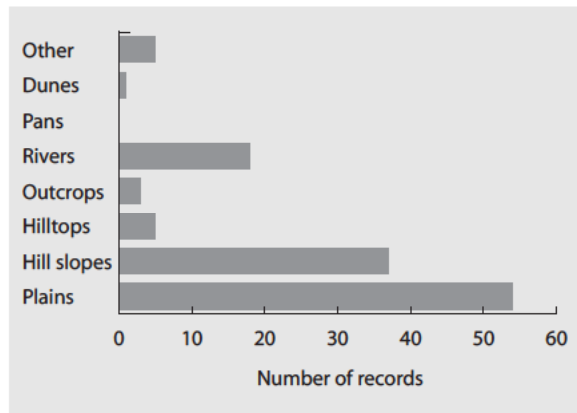
This species is easily confused with *Boscia foetida* when not in flower or fruit and has probably been under-recorded.

**DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE**

Fairly widespread in north-western and western-central Namibia, with a few scattered localities in the area of the Naukluft Mountains and in the eastern Karstveld. Generally uncommon; common in some localities.

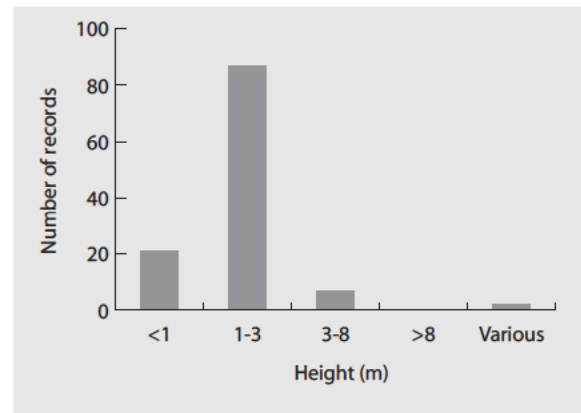
## HABITAT

Various, but chiefly plains and hill slopes; along dry rivers in the west. Generally on gravel or rocky substrates, occasionally on sand.



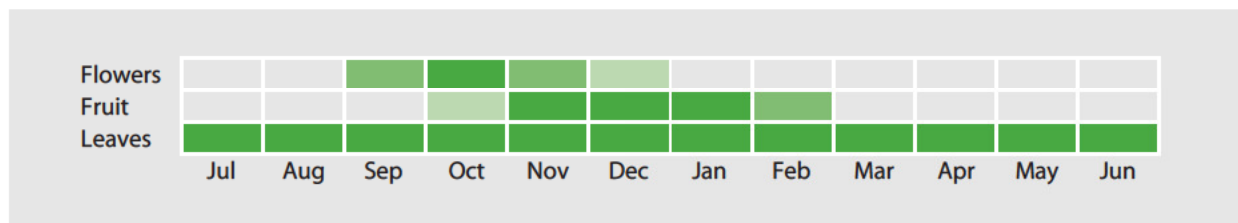
## GROWTH FORM

Generally a shrub (65% of records), sometimes a tree (35%). Mostly in the 1–3-m height category.



## ANNUAL CYCLE

**FLOWERS** September to December, with a peak in October; occasional flowers have been recorded almost every month. **FRUIT** October to February, but mostly from November to January. **LEAVES** evergreen.



## GENERAL

Often browsed; sometimes infested with the parasite, *Tapinanthus* sp.

## CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.



*Maerua parvifolia*, flowers, B. Curtis