

Mundulea sericea

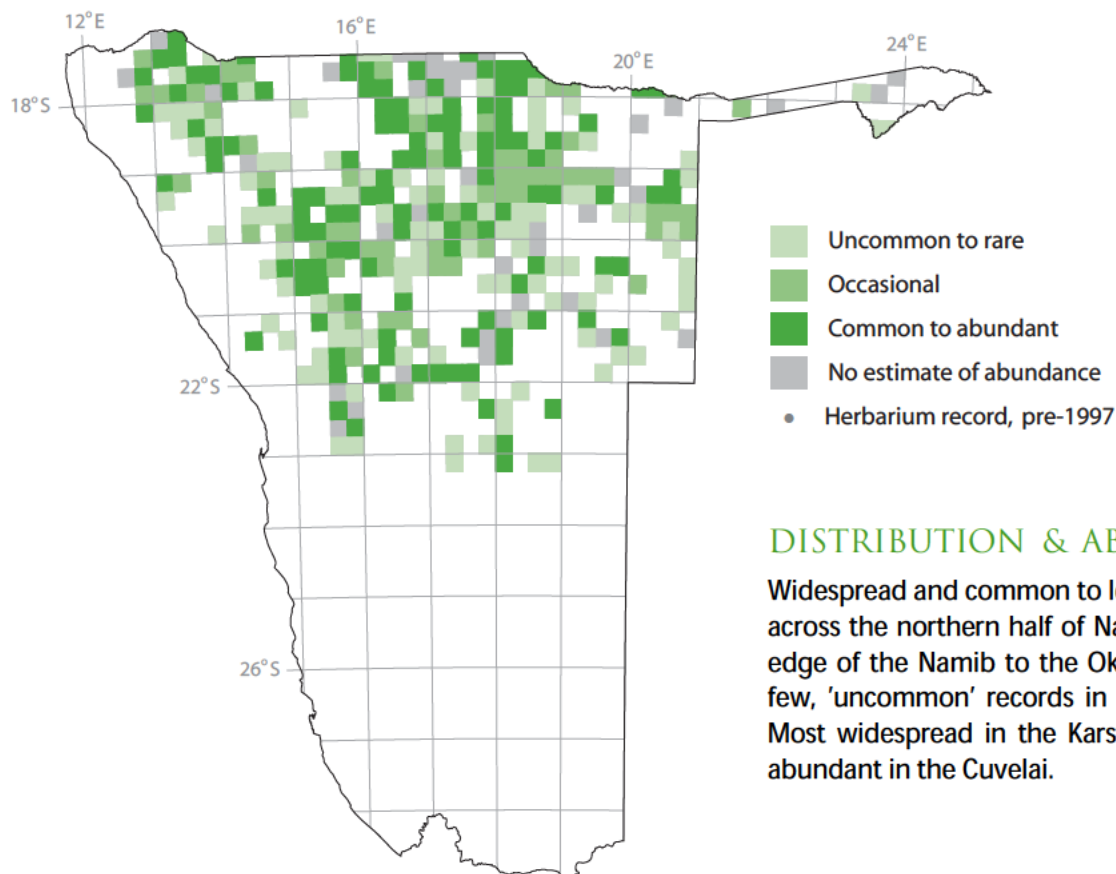
Visgif

Silverbush (E); visboontjie, kurkbos, manganbos (A); Fischgift (G); omukeka (H); !gaeb (K); omumbaganyana (O); mbungururu (Rk, Rum, = star)

[795 records from 332 (31%) squares]



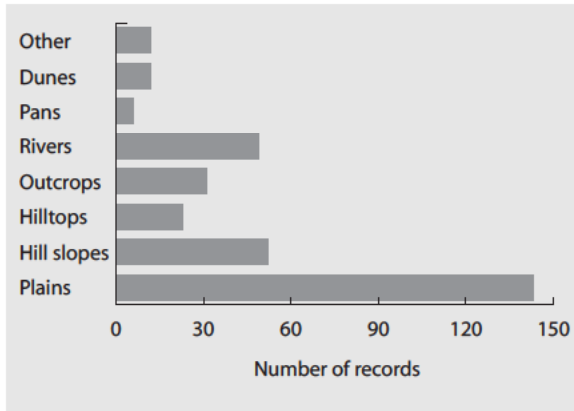
Shrub or small tree. BARK beige-grey, **corky, deeply vertically grooved** with strips flaking off; branchlets with silky, silver covering when young. LEAVES twice compound; leaflet lanceolate to elliptic, 15–30 mm long; **shiny, dark green above; dull green below, with dense, silvery down**. FLOWERS violet to mauve, 10–20 mm long, hanging like a bunch of grapes. FRUIT clustered, **flattened, papery pods, with thickened margins and yellow-brown silky covering**.

**DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE**

Widespread and common to locally abundant across the northern half of Namibia from the edge of the Namib to the Okavango River; a few, 'uncommon' records in eastern Caprivi. Most widespread in the Karstveld, but most abundant in the Cuvelai.

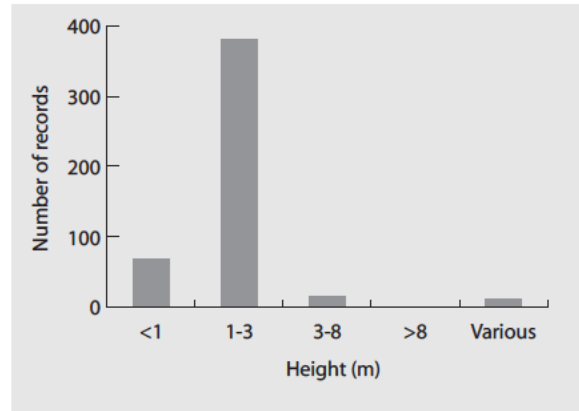
HABITAT

Various, but mostly plains. Along dry river courses in the north-west; hills and rocky outcrops on the north-central plateau; dunes and pans in the north-east. Usually on sand, but also calcrete and other rocky substrates.



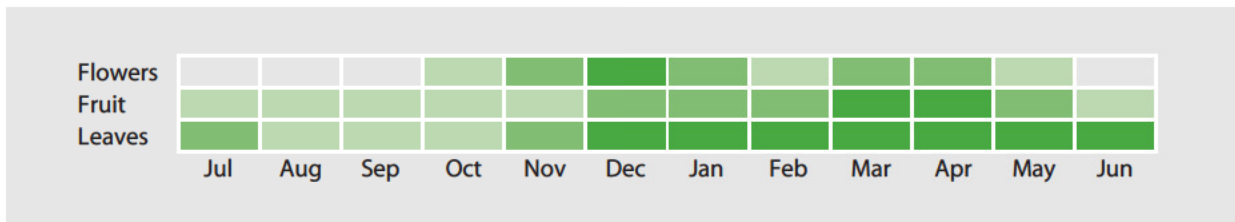
GROWTH FORM

Generally a shrub (96% of records) up to 3 m high, with one record over 3 m.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS a rain-dependent species that may flower twice in one season, any time from October to May. **FRUIT** present all year, but mostly December to May. **LEAVES** mainly November to July, with young leaves recorded any time of year, but mostly October.



GENERAL

Colonises disturbed areas such as road verges and areas cleared of other bush. Crushed bark and roots used to poison fish, hence the common name; seeds are not as poisonous as the bark; leaves are browsed by game and livestock, but poisonous to insects. *Mundulea sericea* is of horticultural potential as it is drought-resistant, fairly frost-hardy, and has attractive leaves, flowers and autumn colours.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.

Mundulea sericea flowers and leaves, B. Curtis

