

Obetia carruthersiana

Baumnessel

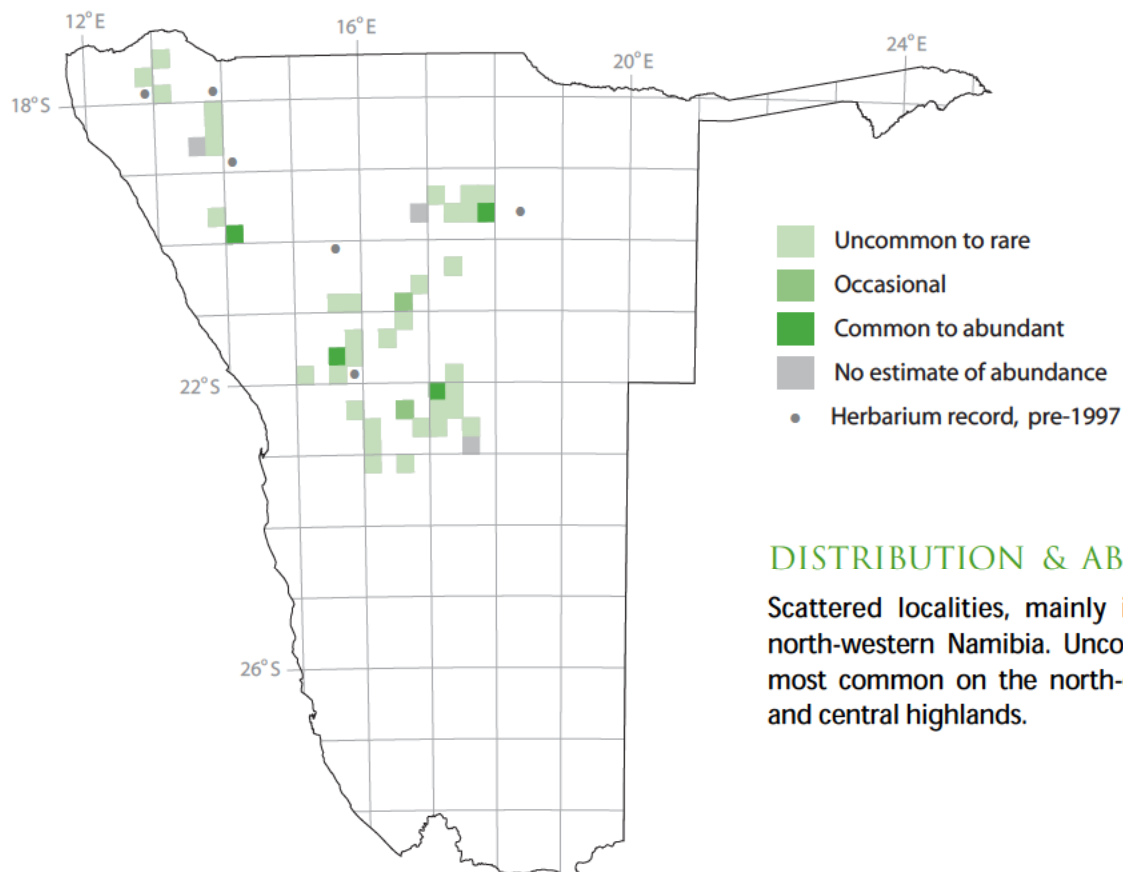
Angola nettle (E)

[93 records from 44 (4%) squares]



Deciduous, many-stemmed shrub with long, straight, swollen-based prickles and stinging hairs. LEAVES simple, heart-shaped, large (up to 200 mm long); both surfaces dark green, **prickly with stinging hairs**; **margin coarsely serrate**; petiole prickly. FLOWERS small and clustered in much-branched heads. FRUIT egg-shaped, enveloped in persistent calyx.

The stinging hairs on the leaves and stems cause an intensely painful burning sensation when touched and should be avoided. The plant is unmistakable, but flowers and fruit could be overlooked from a distance.

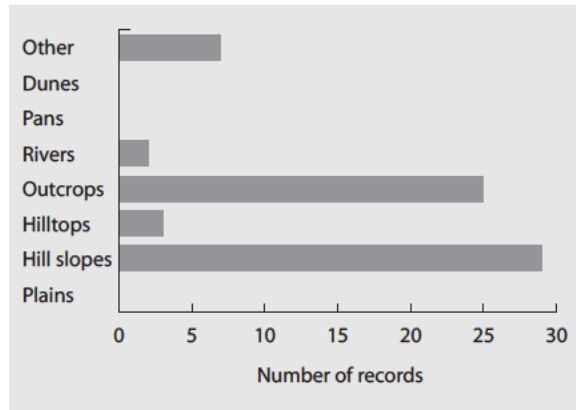


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Scattered localities, mainly in central and north-western Namibia. Uncommon to rare; most common on the north-central plateau and central highlands.

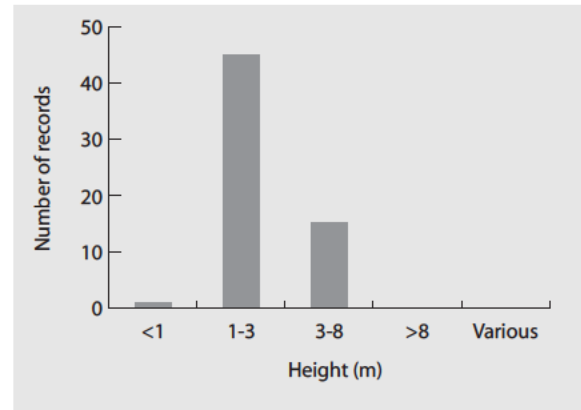
HABITAT

Mostly rocky hill slopes and rocky outcrops.
Generally growing between rocks.



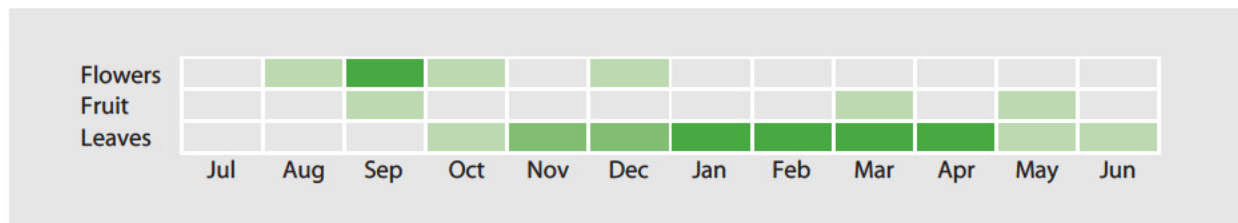
GROWTH FORM

Mostly a shrub (75% of observations), generally in the 1–3-m height class, but sometimes a tree over 3 m high (25%).



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS August to October, with two herbarium records in December. **FRUIT** single observations in March and May (TAP), and September (herbarium); also in October/November (HOF1, pers. comm.). **LEAVES** mainly November to April.



CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.

Obetia carruthersiana, B. Curtis

