

Ozoroa insignis

African Resin-tree

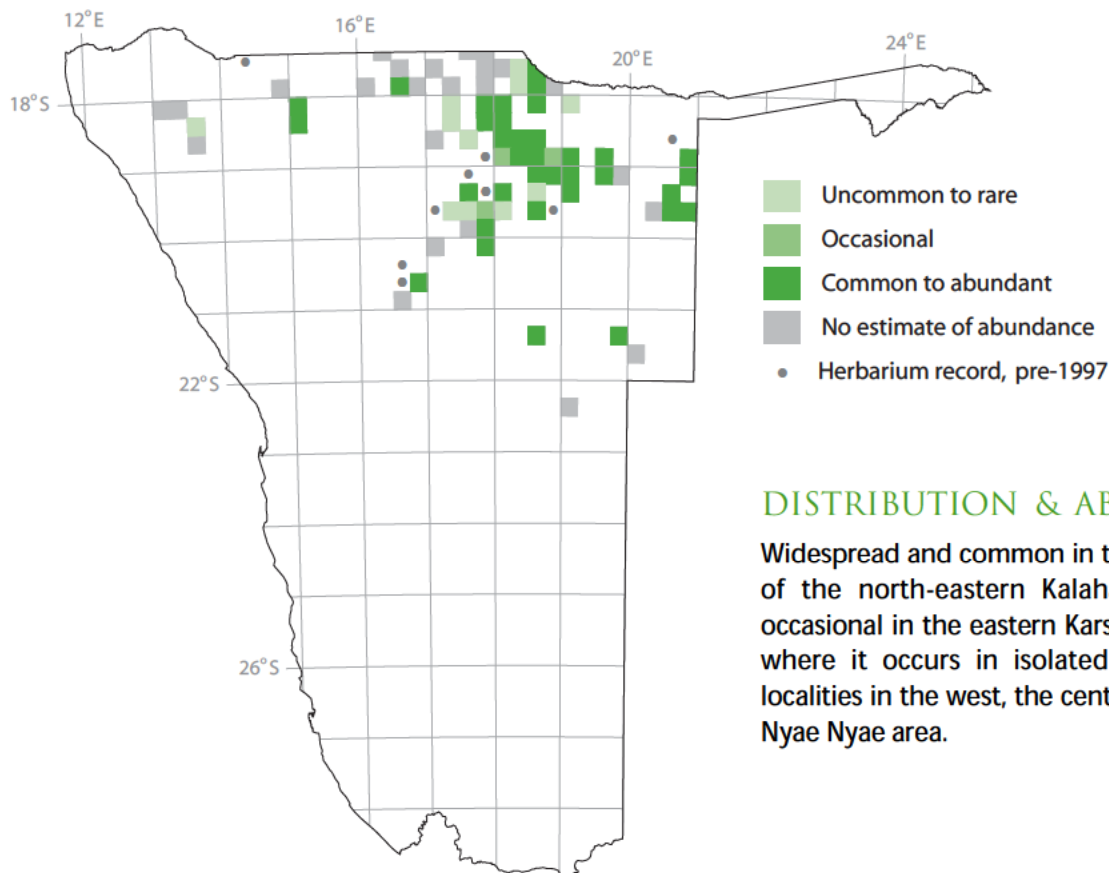
Tropiese harpuisboom (A);
omutaareka (H)

[92 records from 73 (7%) squares]

Shrub or single- to many-stemmed tree. BARK grey, irregularly fissured. LEAVES simple, **elliptic to ovate-elliptic**; pale green above, hairless, secondary veins conspicuous; green with silvery covering below; margin entire; apex bluntly tapering, **with distinct bristle-like tip**; base broadly tapering; petiole 5–30 mm long. FLOWERS small, white. FRUIT kidney-shaped, up to 4.5 x 7.5 mm; black when ripe.

Very similar to *O. paniculosa*, and may have been misidentified by atlasers – see text below.

There are two subspecies, *latifolia* and *reticulata* (= *O. reticulata*); here, both are treated together.

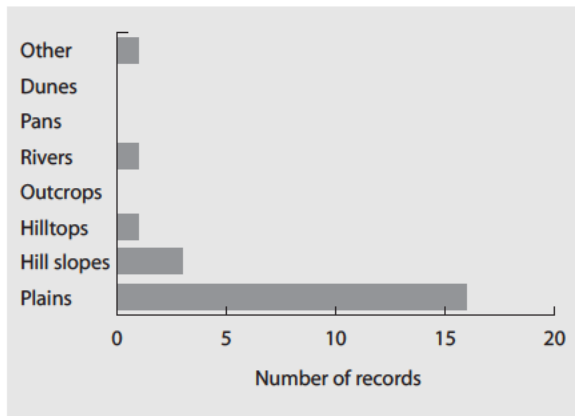


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Widespread and common in the western part of the north-eastern Kalahari woodlands; occasional in the eastern Karstveld. Common where it occurs in isolated and scattered localities in the west, the central-east and the Nyae Nyae area.

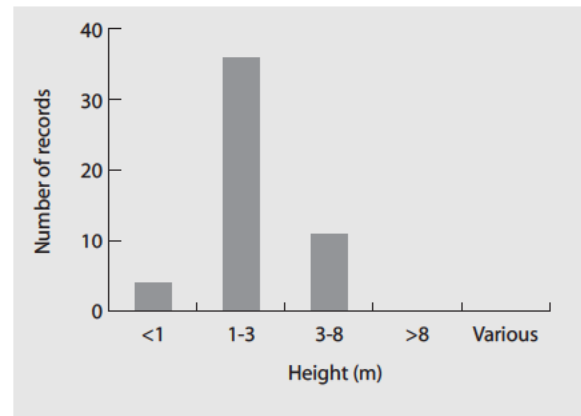
HABITAT

Various habitats, but mostly on sandy plains; also shallow soils with calcrete in the Karstveld.



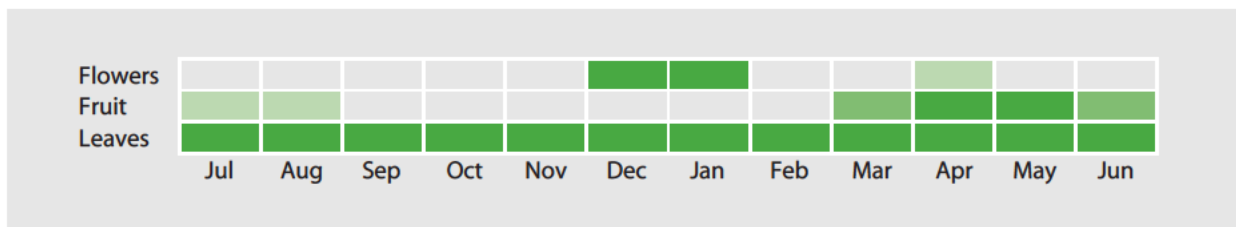
GROWTH FORM

Mostly a shrub in the 1–3-m height class (68% of records), but sometimes a tree of over 3 m.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS December and January. FRUIT March to August. LEAVES evergreen.



GENERAL

New leaves are eaten by antelope; the fruit is edible.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.

Differences between *Ozoroa paniculosa* and *Ozoroa insignis*

Ozoroa paniculosa generally has a shorter (up to 15 mm long) and more robust petiole and a leafblade with a rounded apex and a short hard tip, while *O. insignis* has a more slender and longer petiole (up to 30 mm long) and a leaf blade with a slender, tapering apex and a distinct hair-like tip. The leaf of *O. paniculosa* appears to have parallel sides, while that of *O. insignis* has a more lanceolate to elliptic outline. There is also a difference in the size of the ripe fruit. *Ozoroa paniculosa* fruit reaches up to 10 mm across its longest axis (width) when mature, while that of *O. insignis* seldom reaches more than 7.5 mm.