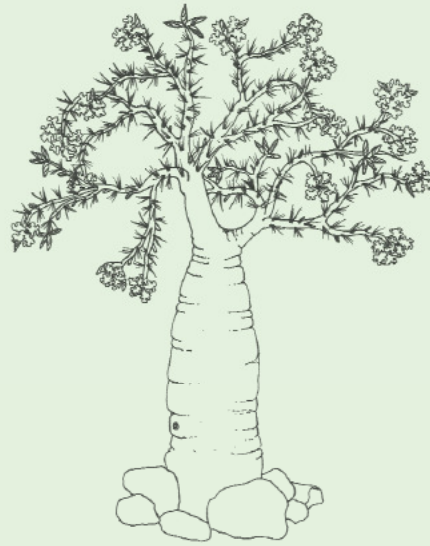


# *Pachypodium lealii*

## Bottle Tree

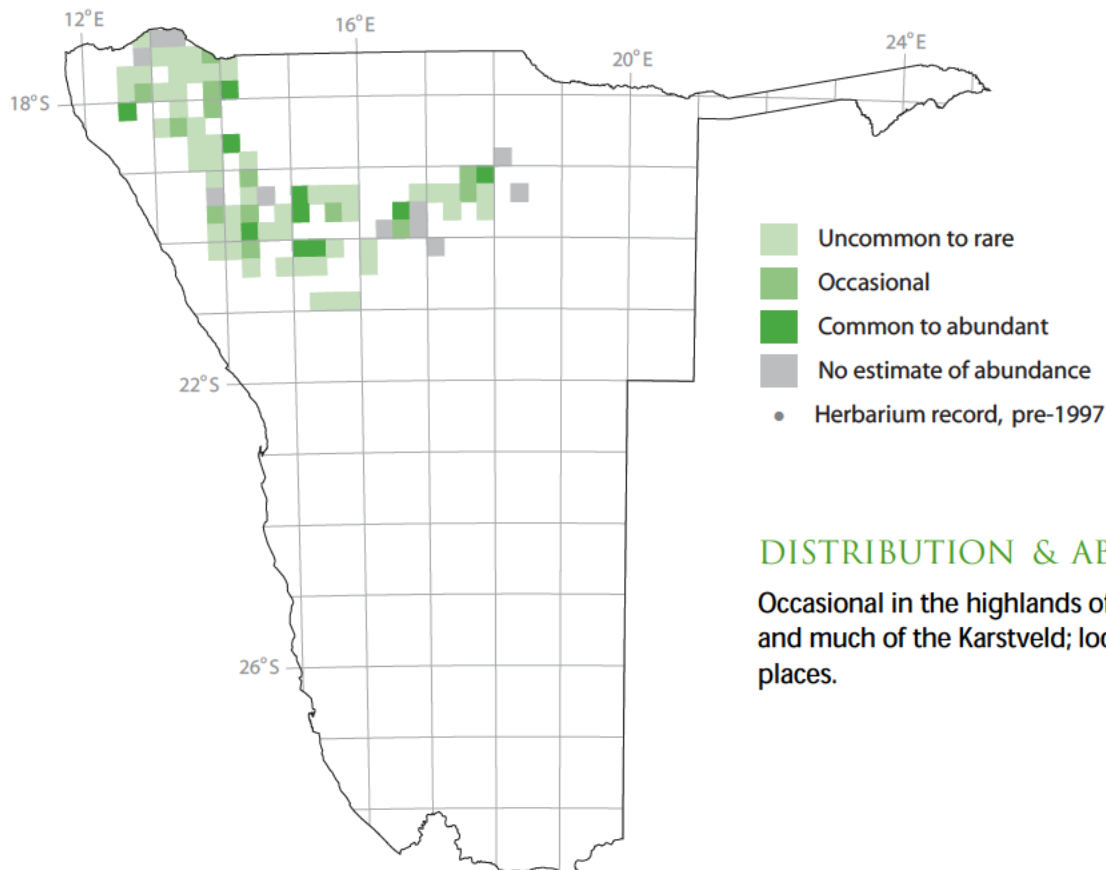
Bottelboom (A); Flaschenbaum (G);  
ohwanga (H)

[230 records from 85 (8%) squares]



Sparsely branched, with a succulent, bottle-shaped stem, sometimes a squat shrub; not forming a canopy. BARK smooth, pinkish-grey to pale brown. THORNS white with darker tip, in clusters of three. LEAVES clustered in the axils of spines; oblanceolate to elliptic, 60–95 mm long; midrib prominent below; margin wavy; apex pointed; base tapering; petiole very short. FLOWERS showy, white, flushed with pink in the throat, funnel-shaped; petals crinkled. FRUIT cylindrical, up to 100 x 10 mm; brown when ripe.

The flowers and fruit are conspicuous.

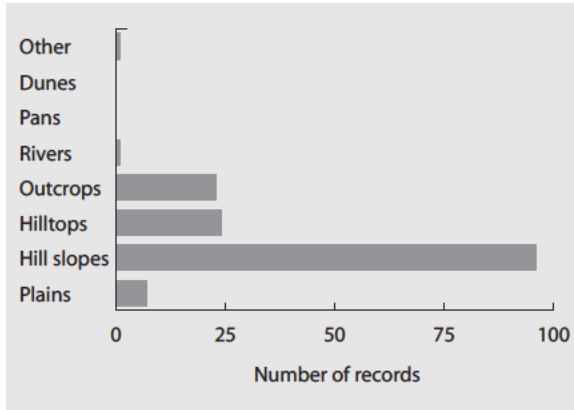


### DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Occasional in the highlands of the north-west and much of the Karstveld; locally common in places.

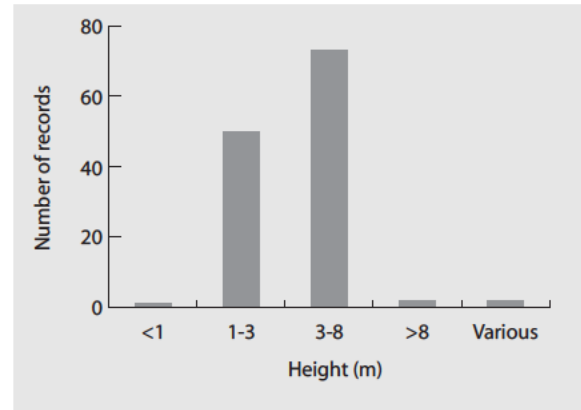
## HABITAT

Found on hill slopes, hilltops and rocky outcrops. Always on rocky substrates, generally dolomite and basalt, sometimes granite and schist.



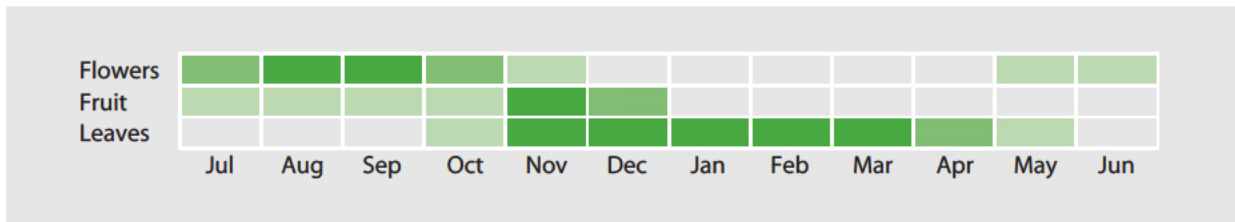
## GROWTH FORM

A tree 1–8 m high, sometimes taller. Sometimes with a very squat stem, branching near the ground.



## ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS from May to November, with highest peak in August; they flower in winter in the north-west and spring in the Karstveld. FRUIT July to December. LEAVES November to April.



## GENERAL

Often damaged by elephant and porcupine in the north-west. The sap contains a glucoside, pachypodin, which is used as a component of arrow poison and applied to inflamed wounds and abscesses on humans and animals. Drinking bowls are carved from the wood by Himba, and used to poison birds.

## CONSERVATION CONCERNS

This plant is vulnerable to the pachycaul trade and the lack of evidence of young trees is a concern. Protected by the Nature Conservation Ordinance and listed on CITES Appendix II. It is a near-endemic, extending into the extreme southern areas of Angola.

