

Pachypodium namaquanum

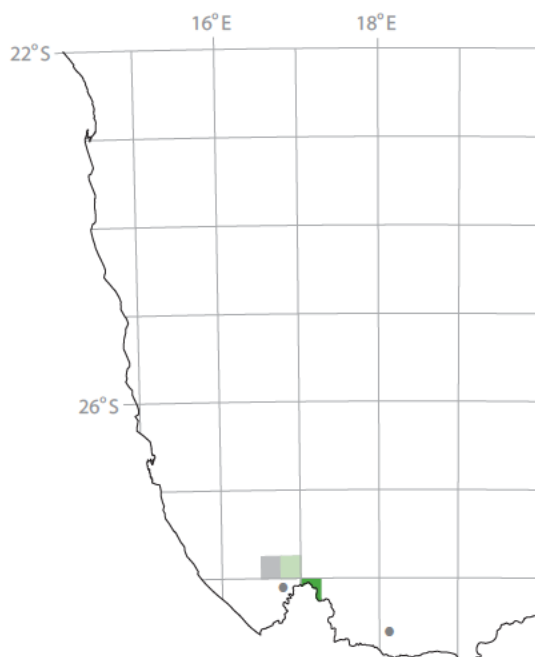
Halfmens

Elephant-trunk (E); Halbmensch (G);
gonneb, sannu (K)

[8 records from 3 (<0.5%) squares]



Generally unbranched tree. **TRUNK** dark grey, cylindrical, thickened at base with warty protuberances bearing straight thorns; typically bent towards the north. **THORNS** in clusters of three, straight, 20–50 mm long. **LEAVES** clustered at growth points, sessile; elliptic, pale green with dense, bristly covering; margin conspicuously wavy. **FLOWERS** concentric around growth points; corolla tube yellow-green outside and red-brown inside. **FRUIT** as two 40 mm long capsules.



- Uncommon to rare
- Occasional
- Common to abundant
- No estimate of abundance
- Herbarium record, pre-1997

DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Uncommon to locally abundant in a very restricted part of the south-west.

HABITAT

Found on rocky hill slopes and once on a hilltop.

GROWTH FORM

A tree, mostly in the 1–3-m height class. A number of young ones recorded.

ANNUAL CYCLE

No observations were made from April to September. FLOWERS September and October. FRUIT none recorded. LEAVES present each time observations were made.

GENERAL

Legend has it that these plants are half human and half plant, hence the Afrikaans and German common names. The English name refers to the shape, texture and colour of the trunk.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

Rare, both in Namibia and just over the border in South Africa, and threatened by the pachycaul trade. Protected by the Nature Conservation Ordinance, and listed as a CITES Appendix I species. Assessed as 'near-threatened' (Craven & Loots 2002).

Pachypodium namaquanum. Whole plant, Werner Voigt. Leaves and flower, Holger Kolberg

