

Parkinsonia africana

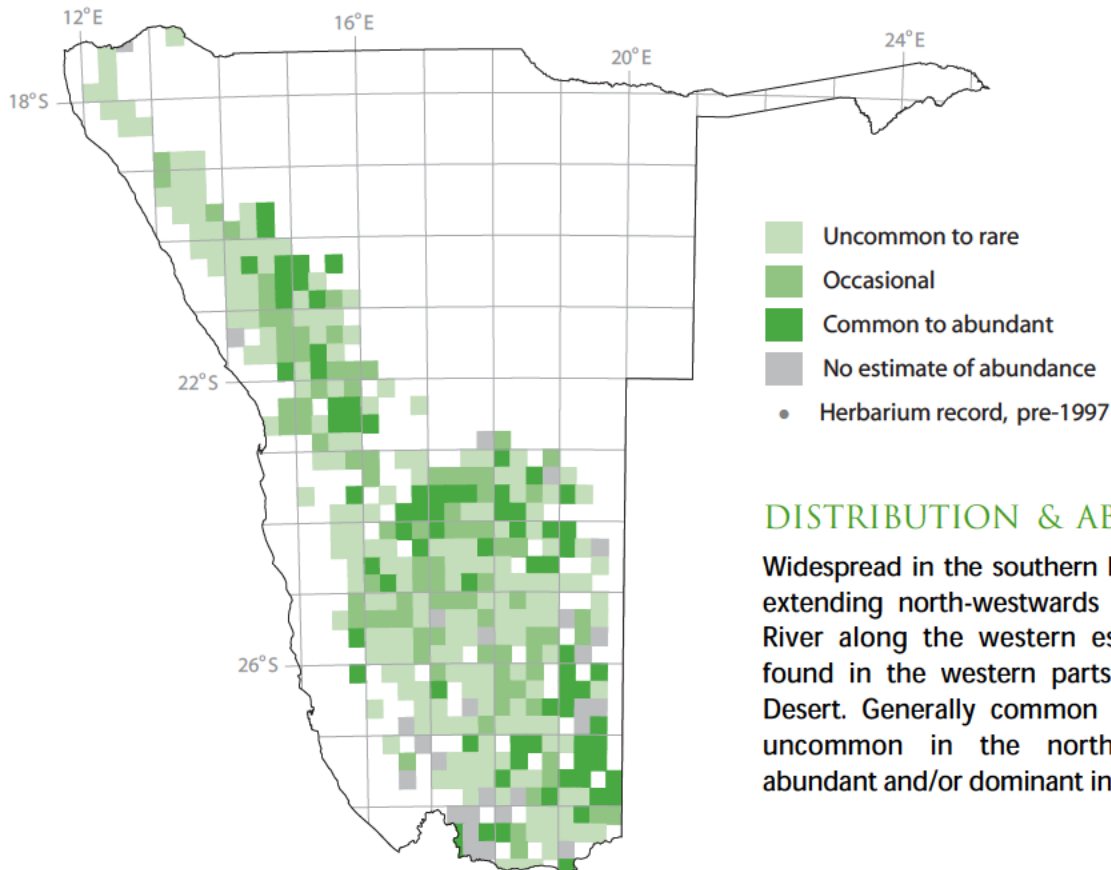
Green-hair Tree

Lemoending (A);
Langnadelstrauch (G); Ikhas (K)

[1,214 records from 386 (36%) squares]



Usually a thin-stemmed, scraggly shrub. BARK smooth, pale brown to **yellow-green**. THORNS **straight, yellow-green to pale brown**. LEAVES compound; **leaflets pale yellow-green, tiny or absent**; rachis appearing as a long, green thread. FLOWERS yellow, up to 15 mm in diameter. FRUIT a slender pod, straight to slightly sickle-shaped, somewhat constricted between seeds and flattened; usually not splitting open. Flowers and fruit are conspicuous.

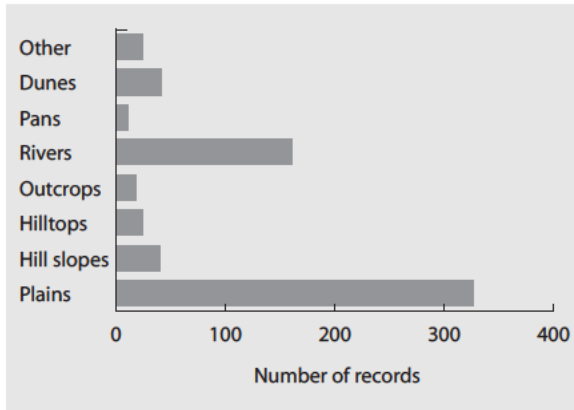


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Widespread in the southern half of Namibia, extending north-westwards to the Kunene River along the western escarpment; not found in the western parts of the Namib Desert. Generally common to uncommon; uncommon in the north-west. Locally abundant and/or dominant in a few squares.

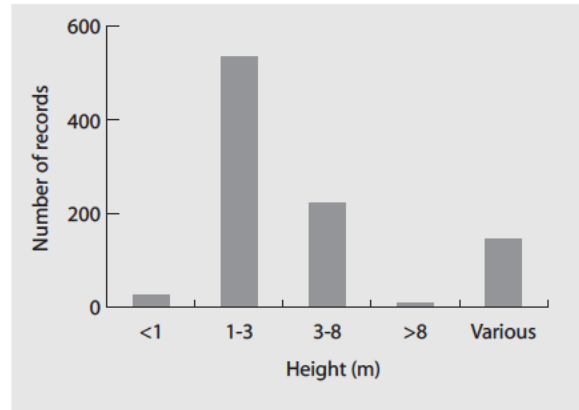
HABITAT

Various, but most frequently on plains; also along dry rivers, especially in the north-west and central-west. On hills in the south and central-west; on dunes in the south-east. Found on sand, gravel and limestone substrates.



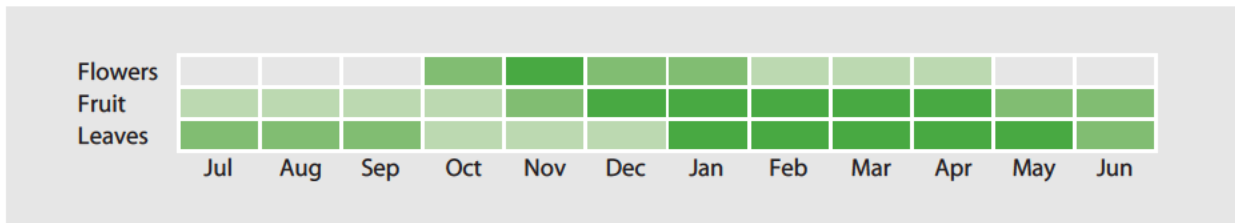
GROWTH FORM

Generally a shrub with 25% of records multi-stemmed trees. Mostly 1–3 m high with about 30% of records up to 8 m high.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS October to April, peaking in November. **FRUIT** all year round, but most abundant between December and April. **LEAVES** generally deciduous, although leaves were observed all year round; most bare trees recorded from October to December, when new leaves were also recorded.



GENERAL

Heavily browsed by game such as kudu and oryx, which also nibble the bark; Red-billed Queleas use the leaves to build nests; White-browed Sparrow-weavers nest in the branches. The leaves, terminal shoots and bark are used medicinally. Often infested by parasites such as *Tapinanthus* spp.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded. Protected by forestry legislation.