

Philenoptera violacea

= *Lonchocarpus capassa*

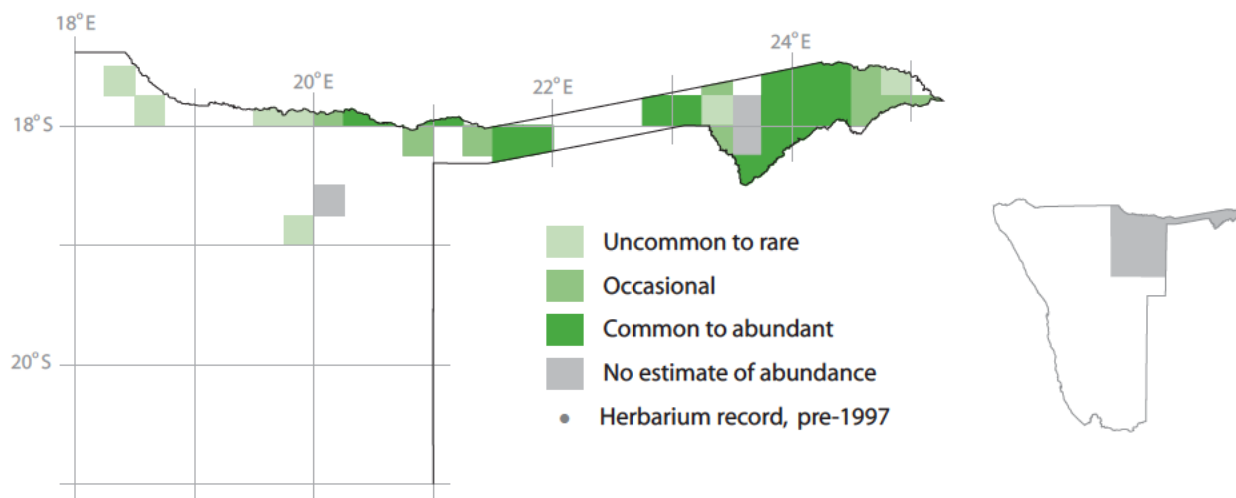
Northern Omupanda

Rain tree (E); appelblaar (A);
Apfelblattbaum (G); mukololo (L);
mukorokoro (T)

[127 records from 41 (4%) squares]



Semi-deciduous tree, with an open, rounded crown. LEAVES with **one large, terminal leaflet and 1–2 smaller lateral leaflet pairs**; leathery, **somewhat concave and shiny, dull green above**. FLOWERS in long mauve to violet sprays. FRUIT a **flattened, non-splitting, hanging pod, tapering at both ends**.

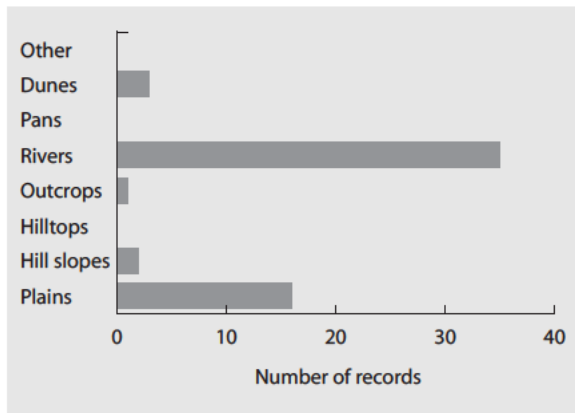


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Common to abundant along the Okavango River and in eastern Caprivi on the floodplains and in the mopane woodlands. Uncommon along the Omuramba Omatako. Possibly under-reported in western Caprivi.

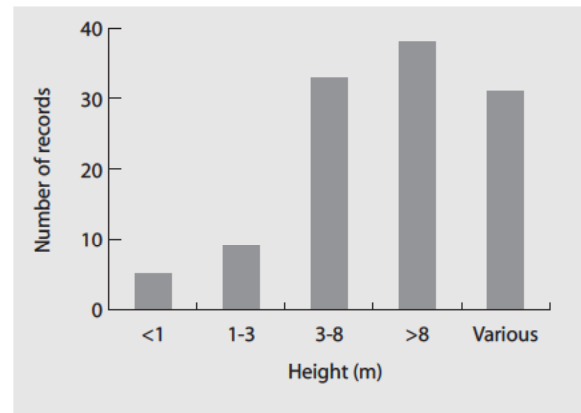
HABITAT

Along river banks and on floodplains, as well as on sandy plains and dunes.



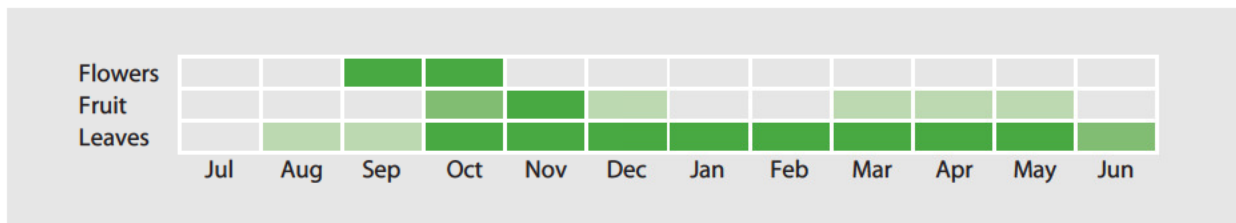
GROWTH FORM

A tree from 3–8 m and taller; about 30% of records with various heights.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS September and October. **FRUIT** mainly October to December, with some records in the autumn months; the fruit hang in clusters, and persist on the tree for a long time. **LEAVES** October to June, with young leaves in August and September.



GENERAL

The fruit and leaves are eaten by game and livestock; the leaves, in fact, being used for livestock fodder. Wood is used for fence poles and watos; the roots medicinally. This plant is of horticultural potential for large gardens in low-frost, sandy areas.

Named 'rain tree' in South Africa due to the bugs it supports that suck out the sap, extract the sugars and excrete almost pure water, which falls to the ground like raindrops.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded. Protected by forestry legislation.

Philenoptera violacea, C. Mannheimer

