

# *Piliostigma thonningii*

= *Bauhinia thonningii*

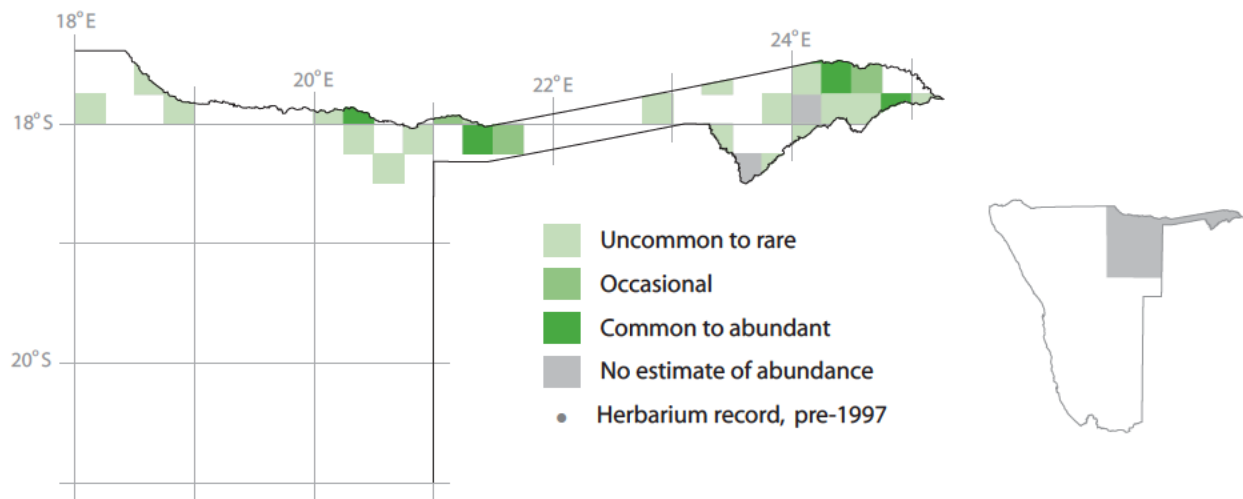
## Mupapama

Monkeybread (E); kameelspoor (A);  
omutuutuu (O); du|dhu (Kx);  
mubaba (L)

[71 records from 29 (3%) squares]



Semi-deciduous tree with spreading crown, up to 9 m tall. BRANCHLETS with **red-brown, densely woolly covering when young**. LEAVES simple, bilobed, large, **leathery**; shiny, dark green above; **rust-brown** to dull green with downy covering below, veins prominent and densely branched; **apex deeply incised for at least one-third of the length** with a **sharp point between the lobes**; lobes blunt to pointed; base heart-shaped. FLOWERS, male and female flowers on separate plants; small, white to pink buds and calyces with dark brown, velvety hairs. FRUIT a, large, flattened, woody pod; oblong to somewhat kidney-shaped; **margin thickened with rust-coloured, downy covering; not splitting open when ripe**.

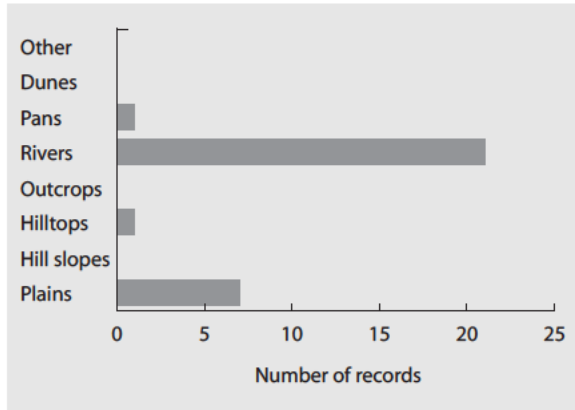


## DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Common to uncommon in eastern Caprivi; common in the Popa Falls area; uncommon further west along the Okavango River. One atlasser (HOR2) suggested that this species had been under-reported in Kavango, where he had seen them all the way from Divundu and Popa Falls up to Mashare. Mupapama, the common local name, is also the name of a village near to Mashare and Takwasa, named after the trees growing there (1720CD).

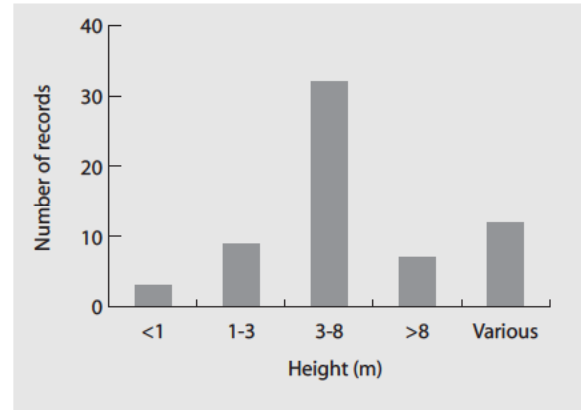
## HABITAT

Mostly floodplains and river banks, as well as sandy plains.



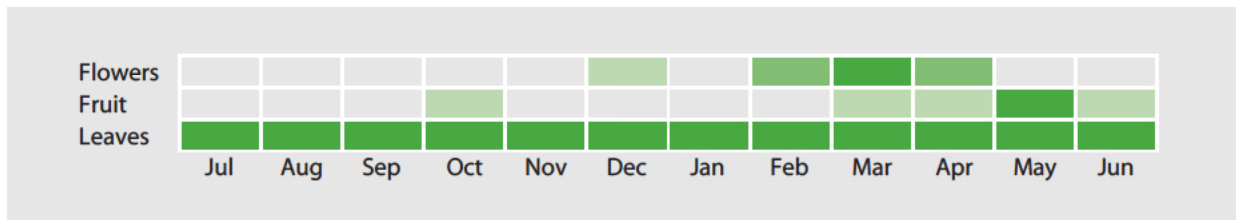
## GROWTH FORM

Mostly a tree (75% of records) up to 8 m tall, but sometimes taller. A number of smaller, shrub-like forms also seen.



## ANNUAL CYCLE

**FLOWERS** February to April, with occasional records in December. **FRUIT** March to June, with occasional records in October. **LEAVES** present when observations made, few observations made in the winter months.



## GENERAL

The pods are highly nutritious and eaten by game and livestock, as well as by people in times of famine; the leaves, bark and young shoots are also eaten. All parts of the tree are used medicinally. Sometimes used for fuel wood. A good shade tree, used as live fences around fields, and of horticultural potential for frost-free areas.

## CONSERVATION CONCERNS

Appears to be impacted by fire and/or human activities.

*Piliostigma thonningii*, C. Mannheimer

