

Pterocarpus angolensis

Kiaat / Mukwa

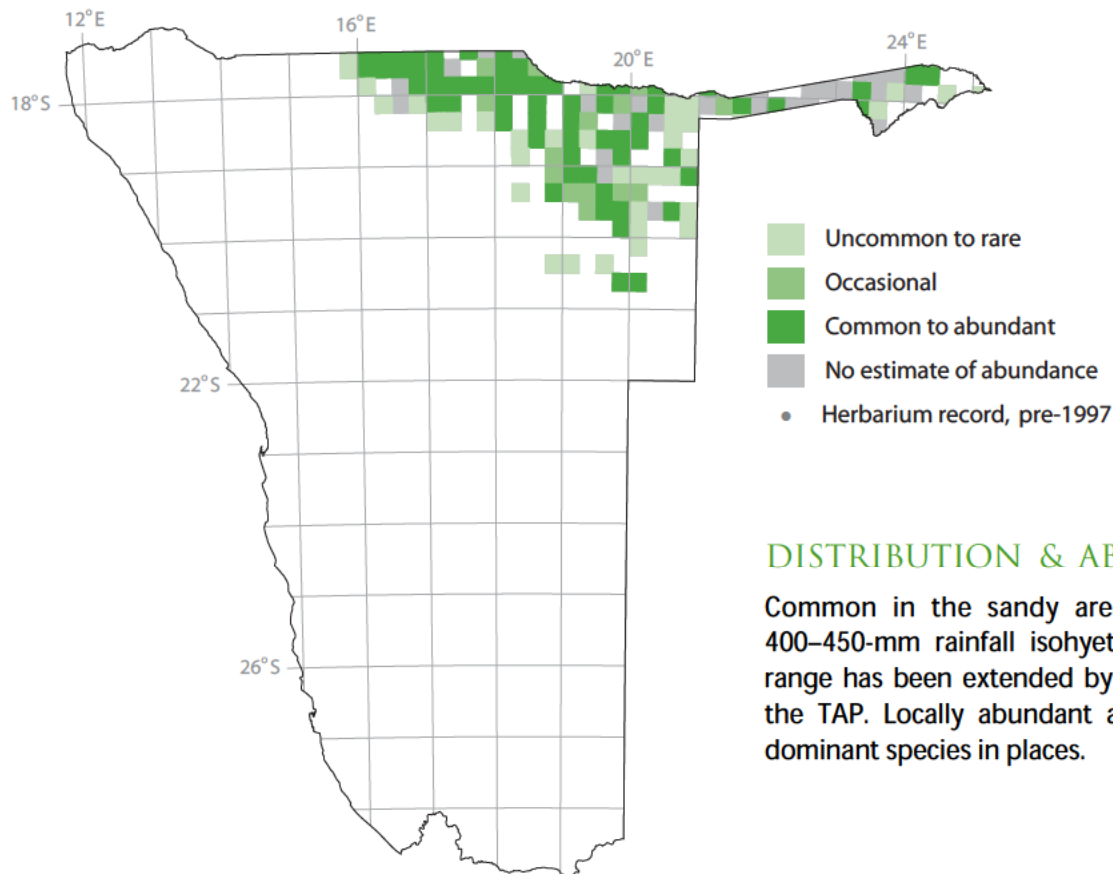
Dolf (A, G); omu(h)uva (H, O);
mulombe (L); uguva (Rk, Rum);
ghughuwa (T)

[257 records from 142 (14%) squares]



A large tree, up to 20 m high with an open, **umbrella-shaped canopy**. TRUNK **single, straight**. BARK dark, rough, longitudinally fissured. LEAVES compound, 300 mm long, with up to 20 pairs of bristle-tipped, shiny, dark green leaflets. FLOWERS **yellow**, sweetly scented; appearing in spring before the leaves; hanging in sprays up to 200 mm long. FRUIT a distinctive pod, with a central, round seed case, covered in long, stiff bristles and surrounded by a flat, papery wing.

Flowers and fruit are conspicuous. The tree is fairly distinctive with its tall, erect trunk and umbrella-shaped canopy.

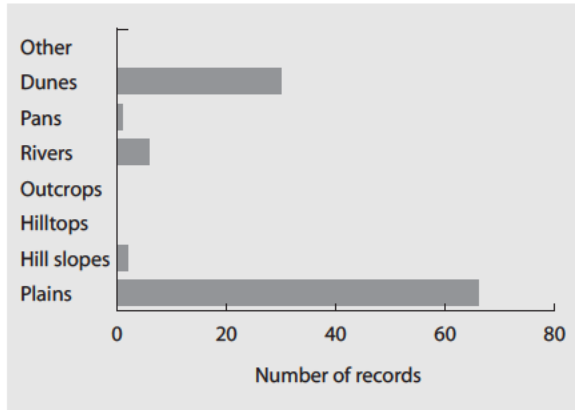


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Common in the sandy areas east of the 400–450-mm rainfall isohyet. The southern range has been extended by one degree by the TAP. Locally abundant and one of the dominant species in places.

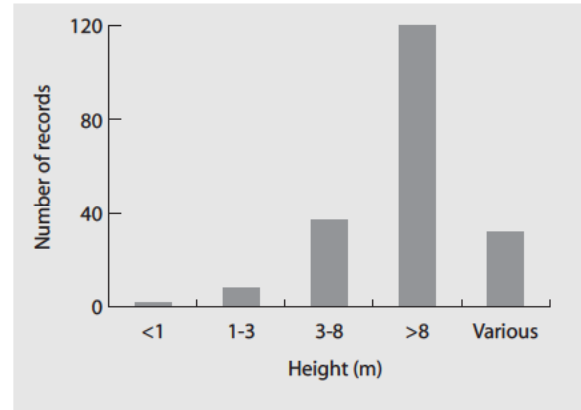
HABITAT

Mostly sandy plains and dunes in mixed woodlands.



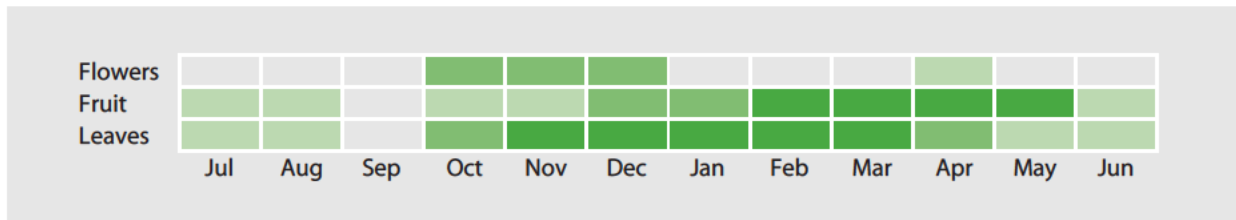
GROWTH FORM

A tree of over 8 m high. About 20% of records reported young trees, mostly in areas west of Tsumkwe.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS October to December, with a second flush in April; never many records. **FRUIT** December to May mainly, but present all year round. **LEAVES** October to April.



GENERAL

Heavily utilised for a variety of purposes, but mostly as timber on a commercial basis, and for wood-carving. It also has ceremonial and medicinal uses. *Pterocarpus angolensis* can withstand fire, dying back to the woody rootstock and coppicing next season. Seeds need fire to germinate and total protection from fire results in decrease in recruitment. It is a light-demanding species, remaining as a suffrutex for many years if growing in shade (GRA1).

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

Needs strict monitoring due to the apparent increase in demand for wood-carving, especially of large pieces. The low percentage of young trees is a concern, but it could be that atlassers did not always note the presence of young trees. Recruitment is possibly being affected by excessive burning regimes. Protected by forestry legislation. Assessed as 'near threatened' according to the latest IUCN criteria (Loots 2005).