

# *Rhigozum brevispinosum*

## Gelber Kurzdorn

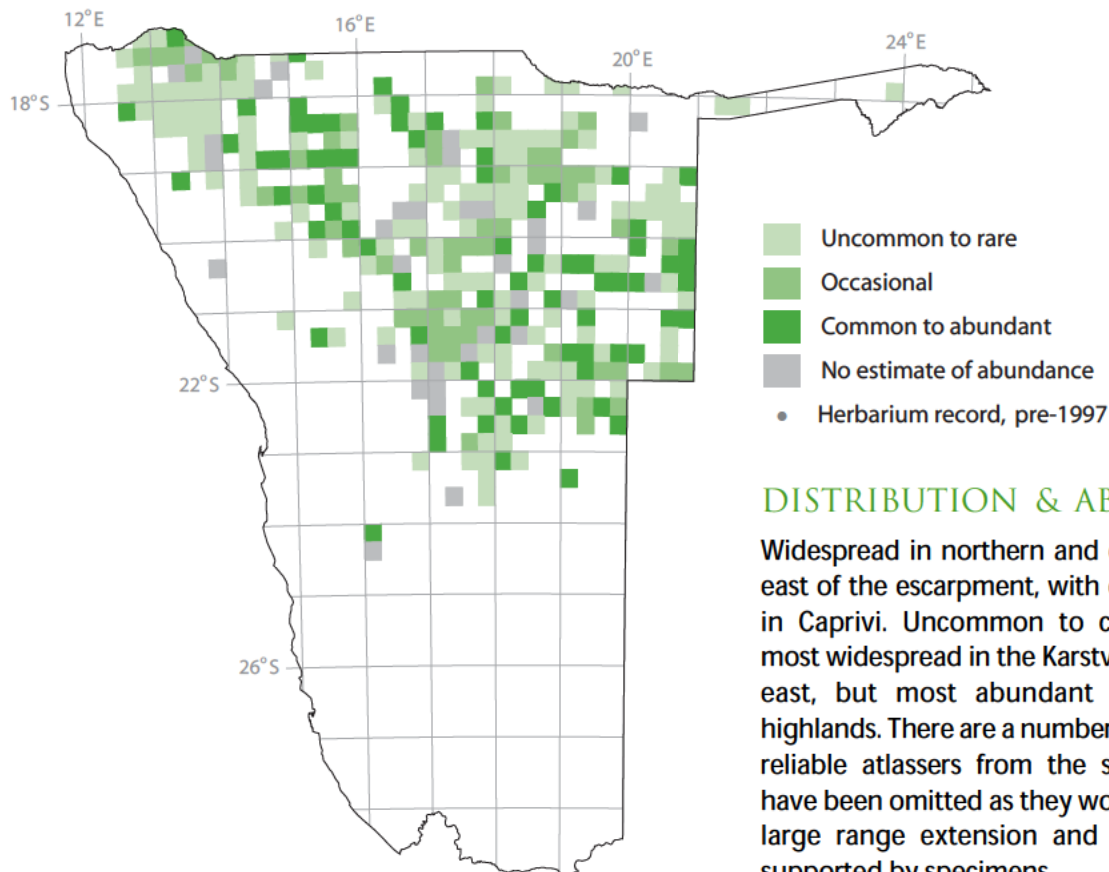
Simple-leaved rhigozum (E); granaatbos, kortdoringgranaat (A); omunditi (H); #nuu!gabab (K); osapati (O); ngandu (Rk, Rum, T)

[745 records from 337 (31%) squares]



Erect, deciduous, **spiny shrub**. BARK of older stems dark grey; young branchlets paler, vertically streaked, **with robust thorns up to 15 mm long**. LEAVES **simple, clustered on furry, knob-like dwarf-shoots; narrow, elongate**, 10–40 mm long; dark green, densely downy; apex blunt, sometimes notched. FLOWERS **yellow to golden-yellow; trumpet-shaped**. FRUIT a dry, papery capsule; splitting early.

Can be confused with *R. obovatum*, which always has trifoliate leaves, and somewhat shorter flowers. Plant very conspicuous when in flower.

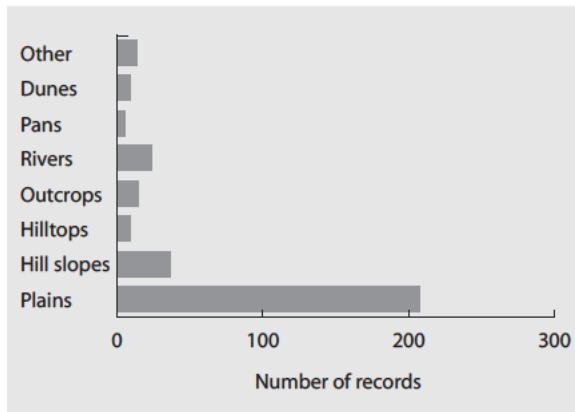


### DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Widespread in northern and central Namibia east of the escarpment, with only one record in Caprivi. Uncommon to common, being most widespread in the Karstveld and central-east, but most abundant in the central highlands. There are a number of records from reliable atlasers from the south, but they have been omitted as they would constitute a large range extension and they were not supported by specimens.

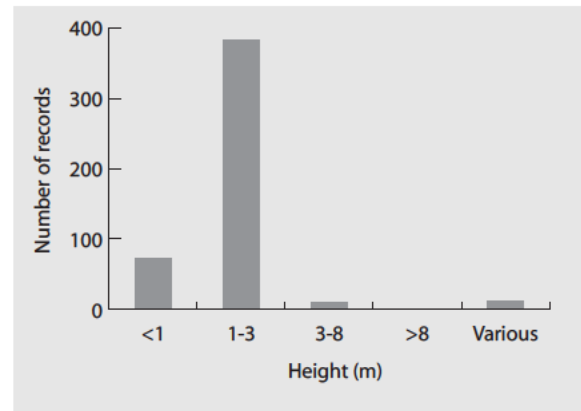
## HABITAT

Found in various habitats, but mostly on plains; also, along rivers in the north-east and north-west, and on hills in the central highlands and north-west. Grows on sand, gravel and limestone substrates, and stony ground.



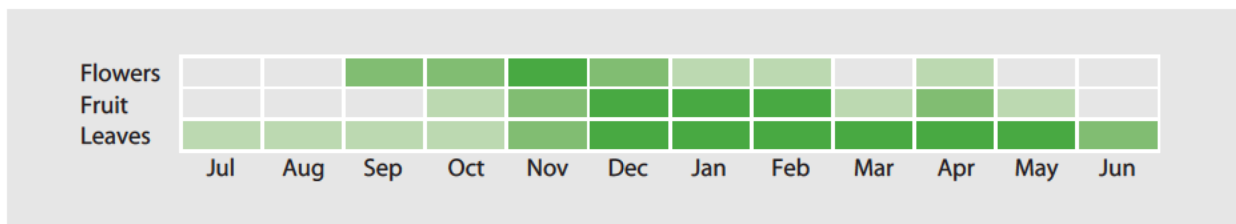
## GROWTH FORM

A shrub, generally in the 1–3-m height class; occasionally less than 1 m and sometimes over 3 m.



## ANNUAL CYCLE

**FLOWERS** September to December, continuing until April some years; rain-responsive at times, but not always. In 2219AD, in October 1999 masses of flowers were recorded ten days after 30 mm rainfall, but in 2000 they flowered without rain falling (SIL1). **FRUIT** a few all year, but mostly from November to April. **LEAVES** mainly December to May, with young leaves in September and October.



## GENERAL COMMENTS

Kudu eat the flowers; the plant is used for fodder in some areas. The stems are used for fencing; the roots are used medicinally. This plant is a potential invader in some areas. It has horticultural potential because of its showy flowers. A rain-dependent species (see above).

## CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.