

Rhus lancea

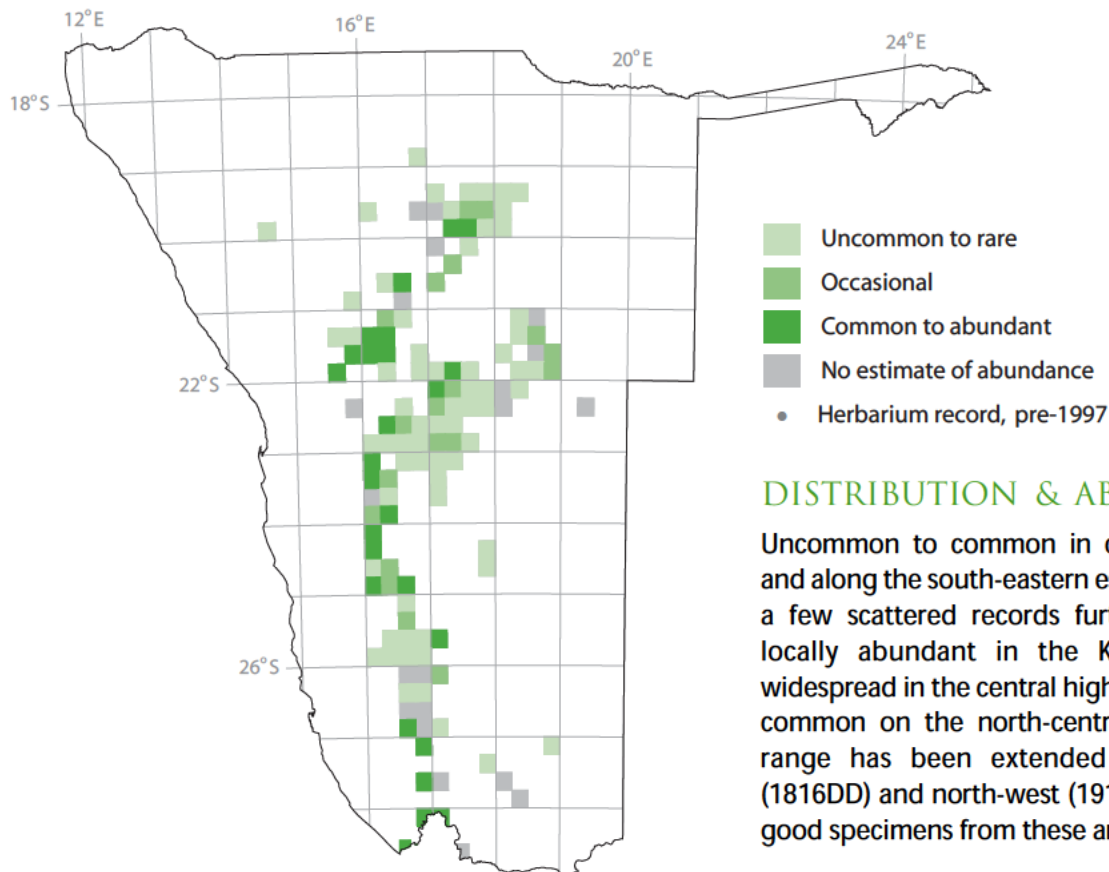
Karee

Willow rhus (E); soetkaree (A);
Afrikanische Rivierweide (G); Iareb (N)

[426 records from 131 (12%) squares]



An evergreen, untidy shrub or single-stemmed tree with spreading crown and **drooping branches**. BARK grey to blackish, rough; irregularly fissured to form fragments that flake off, exposing a pale brown to reddish underbark; young branchlets slightly reddish. LEAVES trifoliolate; **leaflets sessile, linear-lanceolate, straight or slightly sickle-shaped**; shiny, dark green above, often sticky-looking; dull olive-green below. FLOWERS tiny, star-like; greenish to green-yellow. FRUIT almost round, slightly flattened.

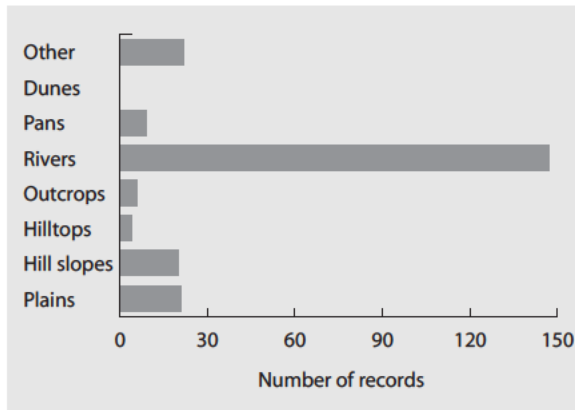


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Uncommon to common in central Namibia and along the south-eastern escarpment, with a few scattered records further eastwards; locally abundant in the Karstveld. Most widespread in the central highlands, but most common on the north-central plateau. The range has been extended to the north (1816DD) and north-west (1914DC), although good specimens from these areas are lacking.

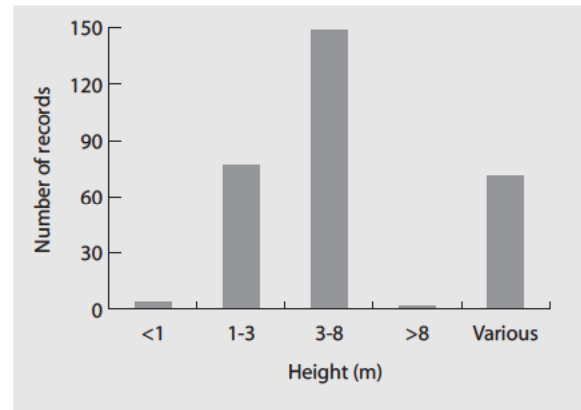
HABITAT

Found in various habitats, but mostly along rivers; also on plains and hill slopes; pans in the central-east.



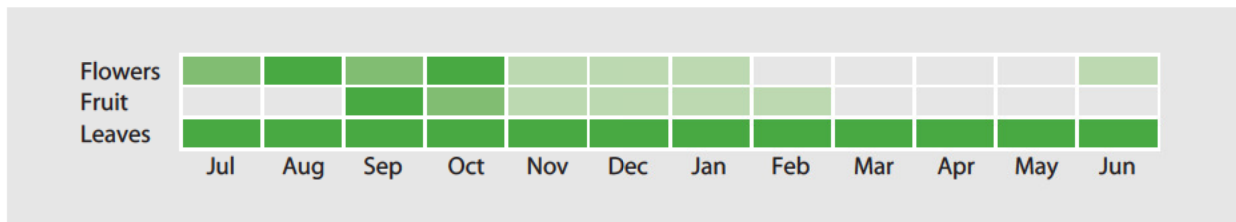
GROWTH FORM

Generally a tree in the 3–8-m height class, with shrubby forms in the 1–3-m height class. Seldom over 8 m, with relatively few young plants.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS June to January. **FRUIT** September to February, with old fruit on some trees almost every month. **LEAVES** evergreen, with young leaves in October and January.



GENERAL

Fruit edible and used to make an alcoholic beverage; also eaten by birds. The leaves are browsed by game. Makes a good garden plant.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

Some trees in the central highlands seem to be affected by a disease that causes leaves at the extremities of the young branches to become entirely deformed. Protected by forestry legislation.

Rhus lancea, L. Hoffmann

