

*Rhus tenuinervis*

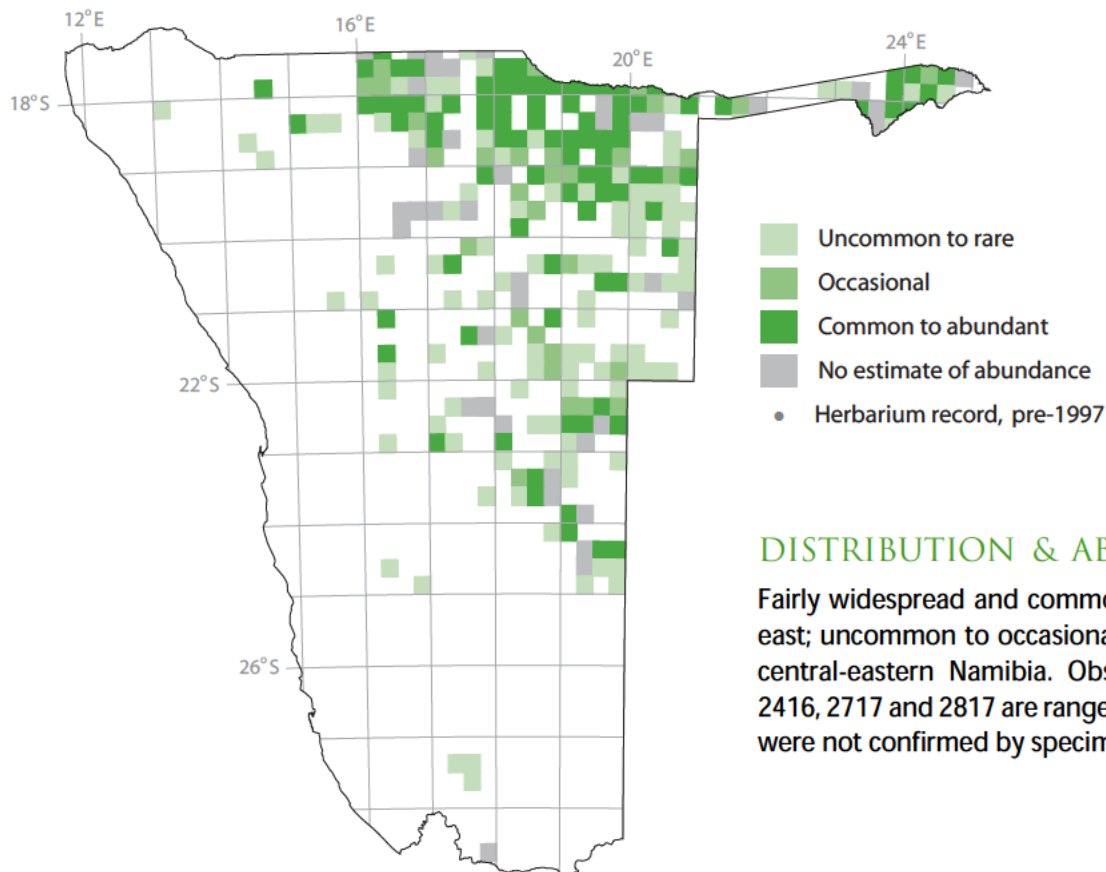
## Kalahari Currant

Kalahari-taaibos (A)

[532 records from 273 (26%) squares]

Shrub. LEAVES trifoliolate; terminal leaflet obovate to almost circular, lateral leaflets similar but smaller; **texture soft**; dull green above, paler below, **both surfaces with soft hairs and distinct veins**; **margin crenate in upper half**. FLOWERS tiny, star-like, greenish. FRUIT round to ovoid, somewhat flattened; green becoming shiny brown-red when ripe.

Can be confused with *R. marlothii*. (Refer to *R. marlothii* for differences.)

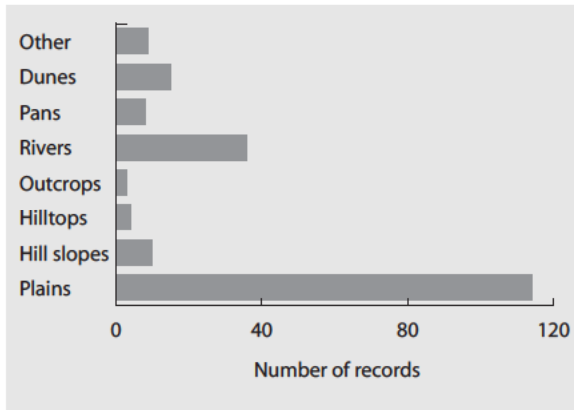


## DISTRIBUTION &amp; ABUNDANCE

Fairly widespread and common in the north-east; uncommon to occasional in central and central-eastern Namibia. Observations from 2416, 2717 and 2817 are range extensions, but were not confirmed by specimens.

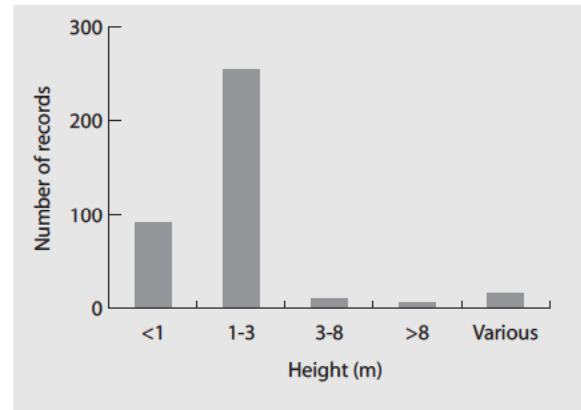
## HABITAT

Various habitats, but mostly found on sandy plains; also along rivers and on dunes in the north-east.



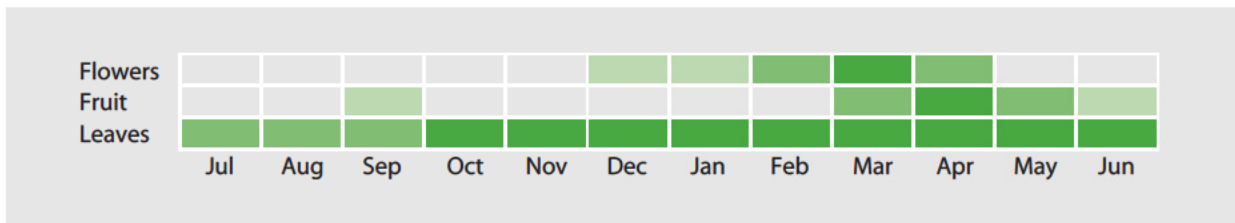
## GROWTH FORM

A shrub of 1-3 m high, occasionally over 3 m in the far north and in Caprivi.



## ANNUAL CYCLE

**FLOWERS** December to April, occasionally starting in September. **FRUIT** March to June, with a few records in September. Leaves semi-deciduous; some bare individuals recorded from July to October and young leaves from September to December.



## GENERAL

Attractive with possible horticultural potential. Fruit edible; bark used for tanning; dry roots used to carve arrowheads and joints, also used medicinally. This shrub is used variously when robbing beehives: the smoke is used to drive off the bees when robbing hives, and the leaves are crushed and rubbed on skin to prevent bee-stings, and to relieve the pain and promote the healing of bee-stings.

## CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.

*Rhus tenuinervis*, leaves and flowers,  
C. Hines

