

*Rothea myricoides*= *Clerodendrum dekindtii*

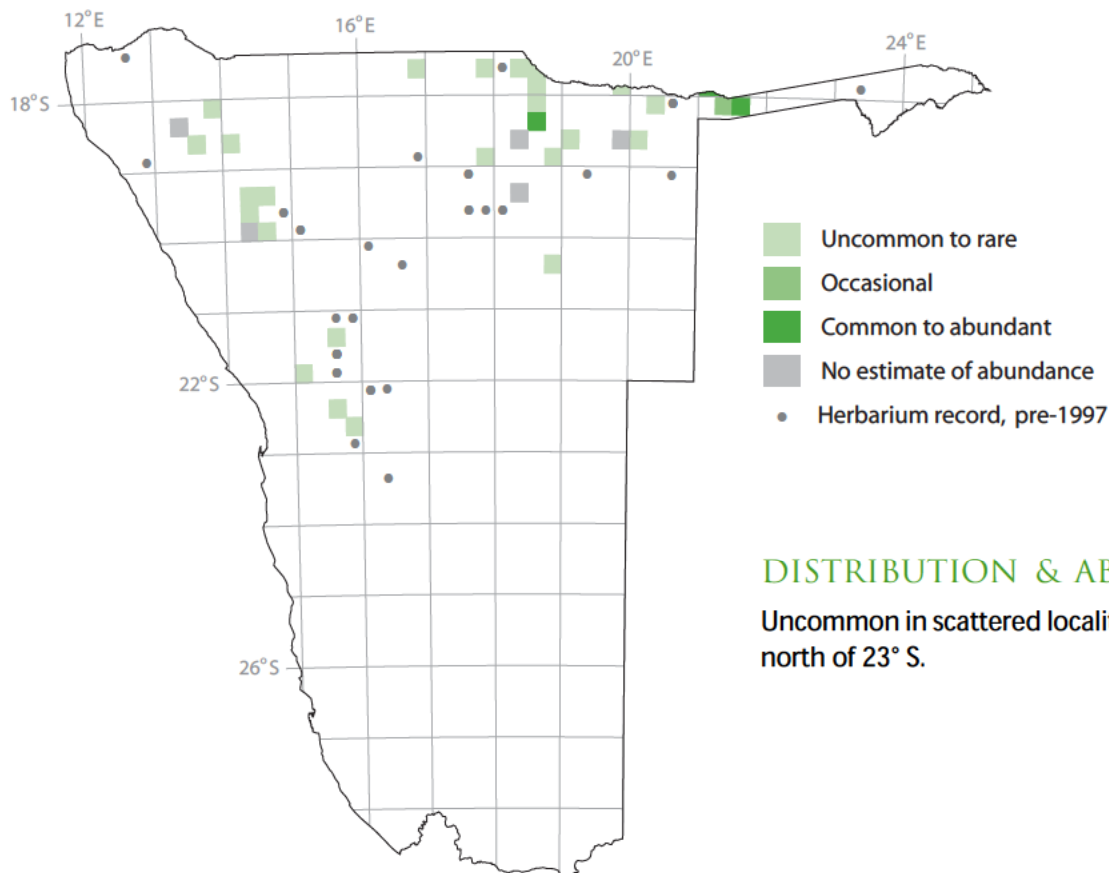
## Smelly Cats-whiskers

Katsnorbos (A); neigogana (J);  
ndimbiswilisi (Rk, Rum)

[40 records from 33 (3%) squares]

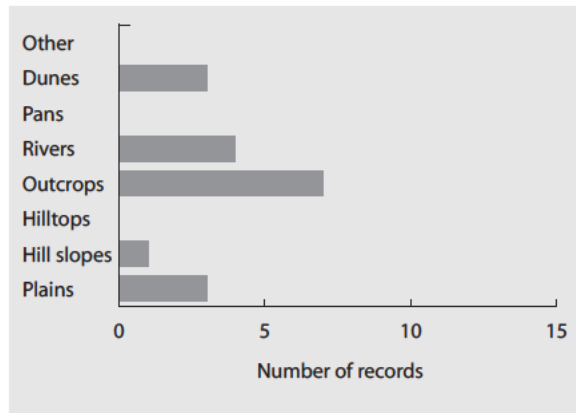


A shrub or small tree. BARK grey, striated, marked with lenticels; branches swollen at nodes. LEAVES simple, ovate, usually twice as long as wide; velvety above, woolly and discolorous below; margin coarsely toothed; petiole obscured by tapering base; extremely unpleasant smelling when crushed. FLOWERS attractive, up to 20 mm in diameter, white with one bright blue to purple petal; stamens long and protruding and resembling a cat's whiskers. FRUIT a small, fleshy berry; red to black when ripe.



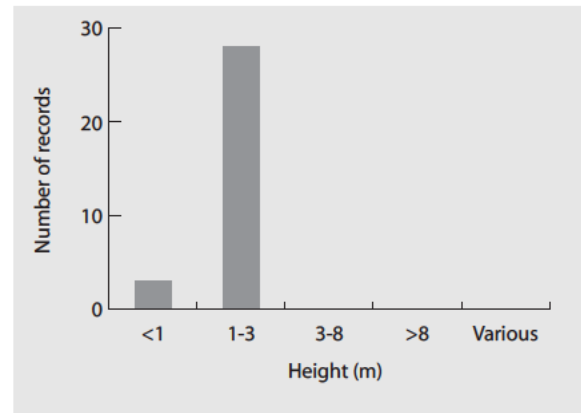
## HABITAT

Found mostly on rocky outcrops and along river banks (where it is occasionally common). It grows on rock, mostly granite, and on deep Kalahari sand substrates.



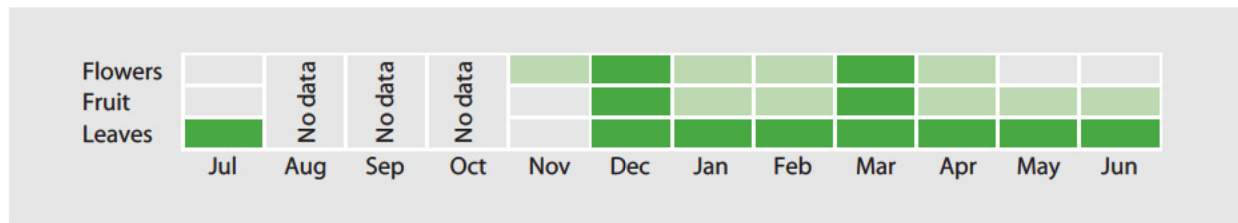
## GROWTH FORM

A shrub in the 1–3-m height class.



## ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS from November (herbarium specimen) until April, with a peak in December and another in March. FRUIT from December to June, with two peaks similar to the flowers. LEAVES apparently evergreen, but no observations were made from August to November.



## GENERAL

The fruit is edible; fruit and roots are used medicinally.

## CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.



*Rotheca myricoides*, G. Friedrich