

# *Sesamothamnus benguellensis*

## Kaoko Sesame-bush

Kaokosesambos (A)

[7 records from 5 (<1%) squares]

Rigid shrub with a succulent, often angular trunk. BARK yellow-brown to **creamy-grey, not peeling**. LEAVES obovate to oblanceolate, **40–60 mm long**; both surfaces **dark green, hairless**; apex blunt, often recurved; base narrowly tapering. FLOWERS **white to cream-coloured**, tinged with pink or light purple; corolla tube slightly curved, 50–80 mm long; **spur at base of flower, 20–40 mm long**. FRUIT oblong to obovoid, up to 80 x 34 mm; apex rounded or indented, with or without a pointed tip.

Often confused with the more widespread *Sesamothamnus* sp. nov. and *S. guerichii*, but easily distinguished by the colour, shape and size of the FLOWERS. *Sesamothamnus* sp. nov. is generally taller, with larger LEAVES; *S. guerichii* generally has a less angular stem, is often taller, with smaller, greyer LEAVES.



### DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Occasional to locally common in the hills and mountains south of the Kunene River in the Marienfluss and Hartmann's Valley area (1712AA & AB); uncommon to rare in 1712AD, BC & DC. Reported far more widespread by atlasers, but since none of these records was substantiated by specimens and there are no old herbarium records from further south, they were probably misidentifications of the other two species.

### HABITAT, GROWTH FORM & ANNUAL CYCLE

A shrub of less than 3 m high, found mainly on rocky outcrops and hill slopes, occasionally on plains. Only observed in January, April and May, when there were LEAVES. FLOWERS and FRUIT recorded January and April. Herbarium records in October, May and June.



*Sesamothamnus  
benguellensis*, A. van Wyk



## *Sesamothamnus* sp. nov.

### Large-leaved Sesame-tree

[23 records from 14 (1%) squares]

**Tree often fluted at the base and branching fairly high. BARK creamy-yellow, often peeling in papery strips. LEAVES broadly obovate, 35–70 mm long; both surfaces green, sparsely hairy; apex rounded; base extending down the petiole. FLOWERS white, almost straight; corolla tube very narrow, up to 110 mm long; corolla lobes up to 55 mm. FRUIT obovate, 80–90 mm long; tapering towards the apex with a pointed tip.**

Easily distinguished from the other two species by taller, more tree-like growth form, with angular stems and yellow peeling bark; larger, darker green leaves; long, slender flowers.

