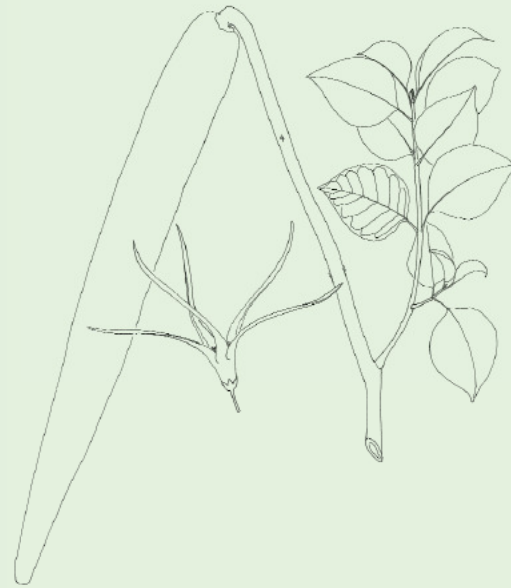


Strophanthus amboensis

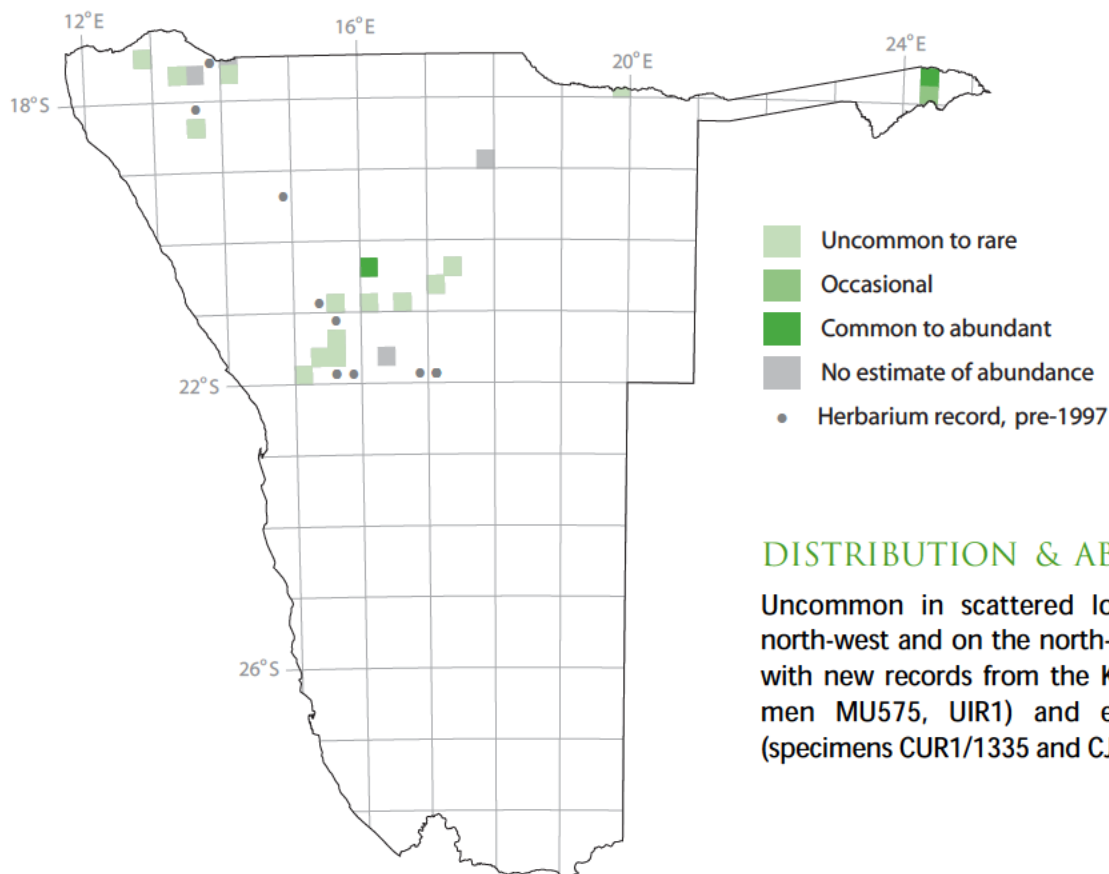
Elephant Vine

Omuhundure (H)

[35 records from 21 (2%) squares]



Deciduous, **densely intertwined shrub or liana, with thick, snake-like stems**. LEAVES **simple, with successive pairs at right-angles to each other; broadly ovate, 20–50 mm long; pale green; midrib prominent and sparsely downy below**. FLOWERS **corolla tube short, red; corolla lobes narrow, up to 40 mm long, twisted, yellow**. FRUIT two dry, woody capsules, each 200–300 mm long, cylindrical, woody; splitting open when ripe. SEEDS many, with a tuft of silky hairs on one end.

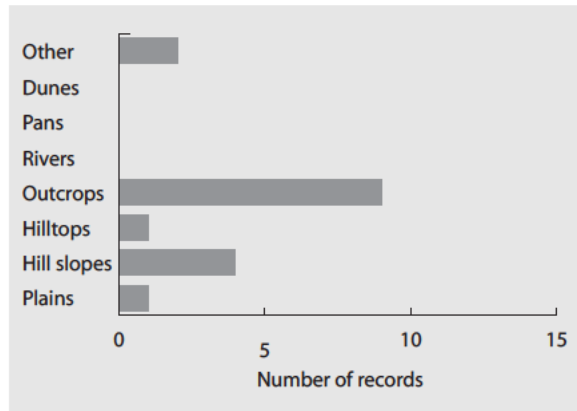


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Uncommon in scattered localities in the north-west and on the north-central plateau, with new records from the Karstveld (specimen MU575, UIR1) and eastern Caprivi (specimens CUR1/1335 and CJHH1118, HIN1).

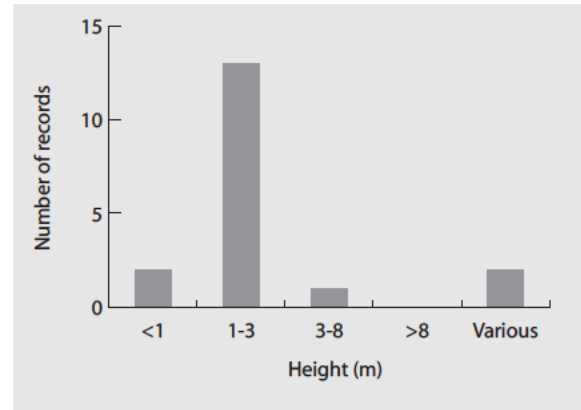
HABITAT

Mainly found on rocky outcrops, hill slopes, kloofs and cliffs, but on sandy plains in eastern Caprivi.



GROWTH FORM

A shrub or climber in the 1–3-m height class; one record over 3 m high.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS September to April. FRUIT all year. LEAVES no records in July and September (only one or two annual cycle observations per month from June to November).

GENERAL

The seeds contain glucosides and, due to the presence of strophanthin, the plant is lethal if browsed. The plant is used medicinally. Due to its lovely flowers, this plant has horticultural potential.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.



Strophanthus amboensis,
Caprivi Region, C. Hines