

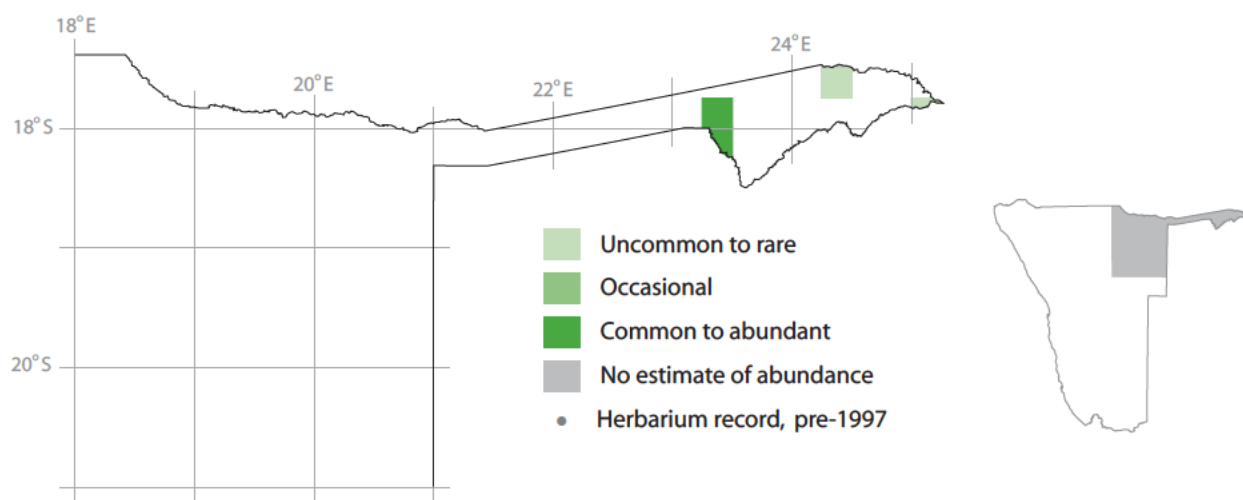
# *Strychnos potatorum*

## Black Bitterberry

Grape strychnos (E); swartbitterbessie (A); Traubiger Strychnos (G); mulombelombe (L)

[7 records from 5 (<0.5%) squares]

Semi-deciduous tree with **spreading crown**. BARK **pale silver-grey to yellow-brown, smooth** but may become rough with age. BRANCHLETS **often dichotomously branched, with a ring-like scar left by the first leaves; lacking thorns but sometimes ending in a spine**. LEAVES elliptic to ovate, up to 150 mm long; **papery, shiny dark green above; 3–5 veins from or near the base, apex pointed**. FLOWERS greenish-white. FRUIT **round, c. 20 mm in diameter, fleshy, soft-shelled; black when ripe**.



### DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Generally occurs along the perimeters of the eastern Caprivi. Uncommon to common in places.

### HABITAT

Found on river banks, floodplains and dunes.

### GROWTH FORM

A tree in the 3–8-m height class.

### ANNUAL CYCLE

Observations were made from March to May and in October. FLOWERS none recorded. FRUIT recorded in January, March, April and May, and old fruit in November. LEAVES present from March to May; bare in October.

### GENERAL

The fruit is eaten by birds and baboons, but poisonous to man. Crushed bark and roots are used to poison fish.

### CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.