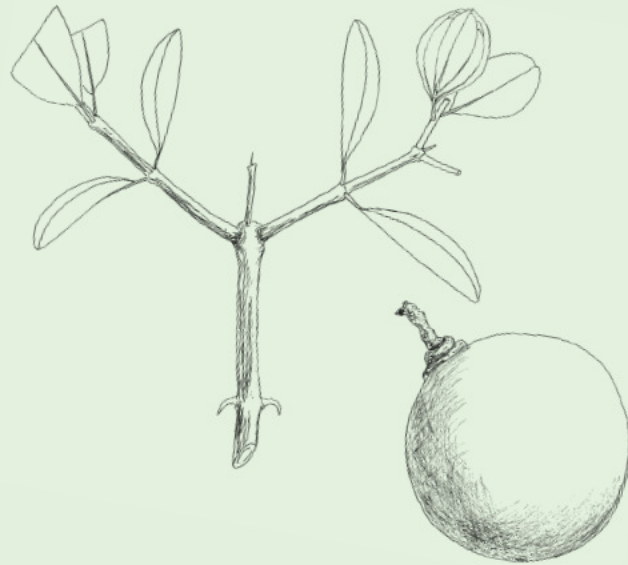


*Strychnos spinosa*

## Spiny Monkey-orange

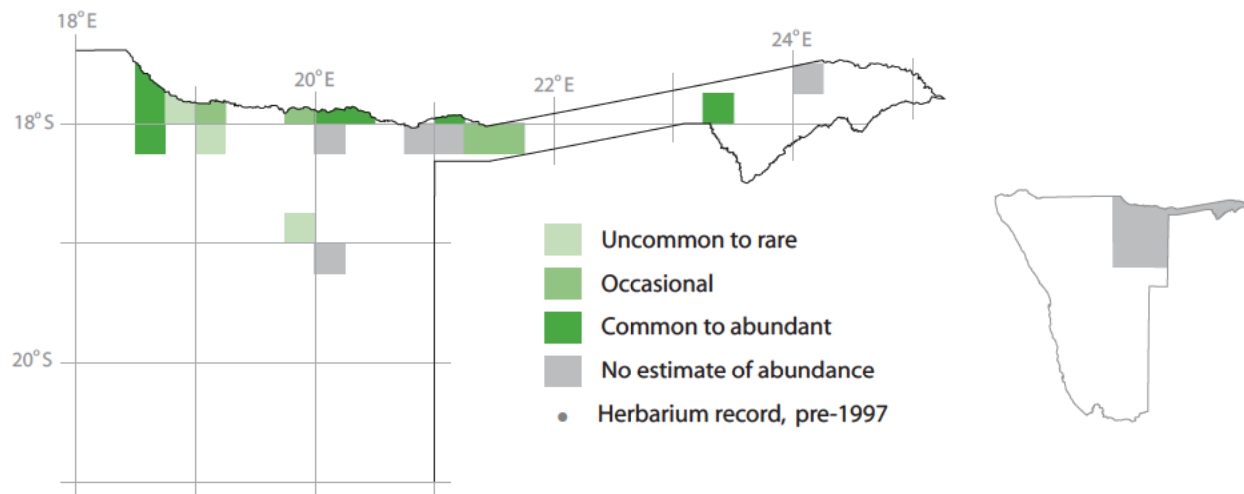
Doringklapper (A); Juana (Kx);  
mwimbili (L); uguni (Rk, Rum);  
ghughumi (Rk, T)

[30 records from 21 (2%) squares]



Semi-deciduous tree with a neat canopy. BARK grey to dull brown, thinly corky, flaking in square fragments, leaving smooth, white marks. BRANCHLETS **dirty green**. THORNS **paired at nodes, curved or straight; straight at ends of branches**. LEAVES almost circular, up to 90mm, leathery; shiny, dark green above; wavy, with 2–4 conspicuous lateral veins; apex pointed to drawn out. FLOWERS cream-coloured to green. FRUIT **round, up to 120 mm in diameter with woody shell; green, becoming yellow-brown when ripe, occasionally speckled; with many seeds**.

Can be confused with *S. cocculoides*, but the bark of *S. spinosa* is not as deeply fissured and the young branches are dirty green, not plum-coloured.

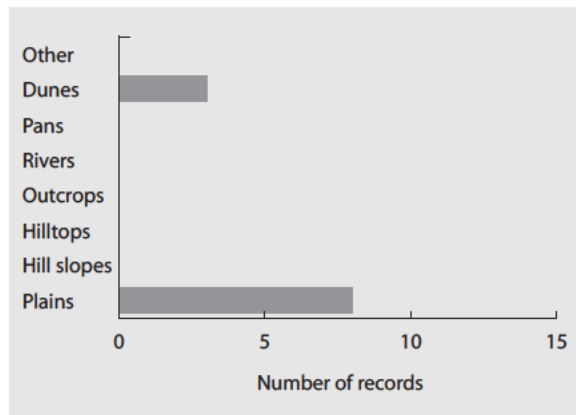


## DISTRIBUTION &amp; ABUNDANCE

Common to occasional along the Okavango River, with a large range extension southwards (CM1288, MAN1) and into eastern Caprivi (SOL1/EC10).

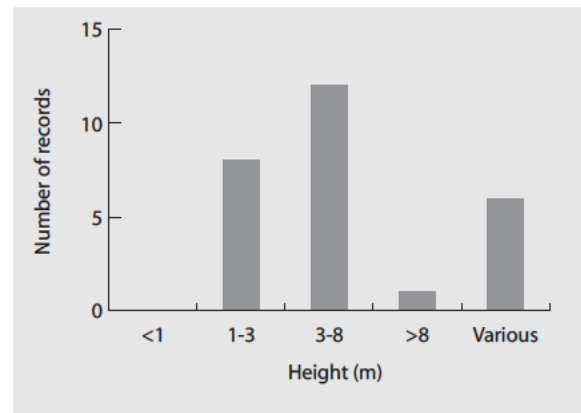
## HABITAT

Found on sandy plains and dunes and in woodlands and riverine forests.



## GROWTH FORM

A tree, mostly in the 3–8-m height class, sometimes smaller; rarely taller than 8 m.



## ANNUAL CYCLE

No observations in winter. FLOWERS in October and December. FRUIT mainly May, but a few records most months. LEAVES probably deciduous.

## GENERAL

The fruit pulp is edible; the seeds are poisonous. The roots, green fruit and leaves are used medicinally.

## CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded. Protected by forestry legislation.

*Strychnos  
madagascariensis*

**Black Monkey-orange**

Swartklapper (A)

[4 records from 2 squares]

Tree lacking thorns, but with rigid, dwarf, lateral branches that may resemble spines. LEAVES often clustered at ends of branches; narrowly elliptic to almost circular, velvety, at least on the veins. FRUIT up to 100 mm in diameter; initially blue-green, turning orange-brown when ripe.

Four TAP records were collected from two squares in eastern Caprivi, supported by two specimens (BC735 and 1330, CUR1) and there are no earlier herbarium records. These appear to be new records for Namibia since they are not listed in Craven (1999). Their presence in Namibia is indicated in Coates Palgrave (2002), however.