

*Caesalpinia  
merxmullerana*

Orange-river  
*Caesalpinia*

[1 record]

A shrub. LEAVES with 1–7 leaflet pairs. FLOWERS red. FRUIT a crooked-pear-shaped pod.

Endemic to the mountains north of the Orange River in the extreme south of Namibia. Only one TAP record from 2717CA (specimen CUR1/1521). A rare shrub in the 1–3-m height class. Earlier herbarium records exist for this square, as well as 2717CB & CC. A shrub up to 2 m high, sometimes 4 m high. Very common and in dense stands on black, calcrete terraces along dry river banks, where it is the dominant woody shrub.

*Swartzia  
madagascariensis*

= *Bobgunnia madagascariensis*

Mutengura

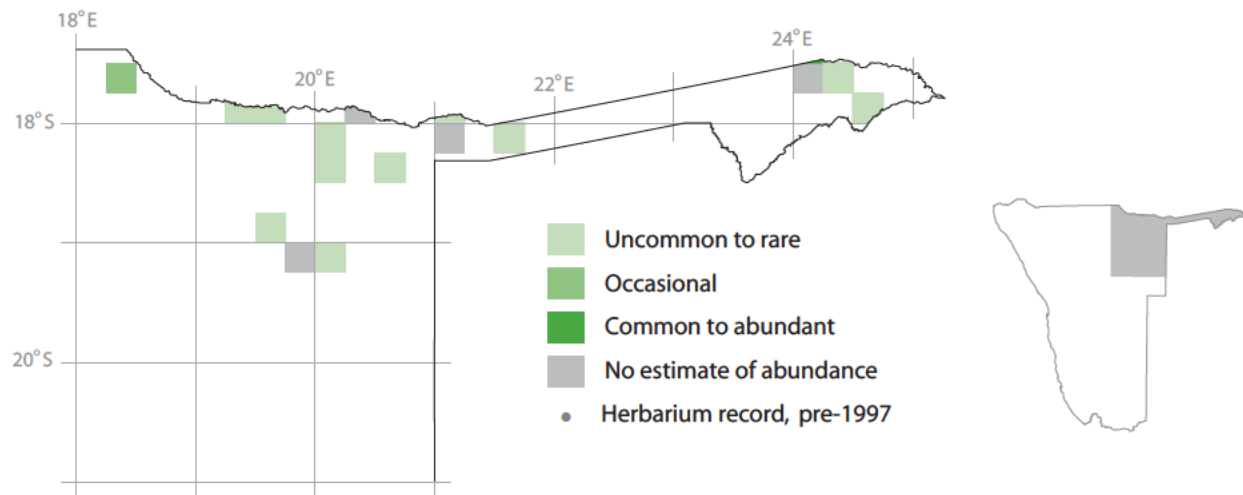
Snake-bean (E); mushakashela (L);  
omumonga (O); motjeketjek (Rk)

[21 records from 18 (2%) squares]

A small, deciduous tree, often with a gnarled trunk. BARK rough, fissured, powdery; flakes off easily. LEAVES compound with 3–11 alternate leaflets; petiolule short and thick; leaflets elliptic, dark green and hairless above, paler green and densely woolly below; apex blunt and shallowly notched. FLOWERS up to 20 mm long; a single, conspicuous, crinkled, white petal with grey edging; numerous orange-yellow stamens protruding. FRUIT a cylindrical, crooked pod, up to 300 mm long; slender, woody, dark brown; not splitting open.

Cannot really be confused with other species, especially when in flower or pod, both of which are conspicuous.





### DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Uncommon in scattered localities in the Kavango and Caprivi regions.

### HABITAT

Sandy valleys or floodplains.

### GROWTH FORM

A shrub in the 1–3-m height class or a tree in the 3–8-m height class.

### ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS recorded in September and October. FRUIT recorded in August, October, December, and from February to May. LEAVES October to June, with young leaves in October.

### GENERAL

Pods eaten by cattle. Seeds reportedly poisonous and used as arrow poison. Fruit used medicinally.

### CONSERVATION CONCERN

None recorded. Rare in Namibia.

Wood carvings, P. Reiner

