

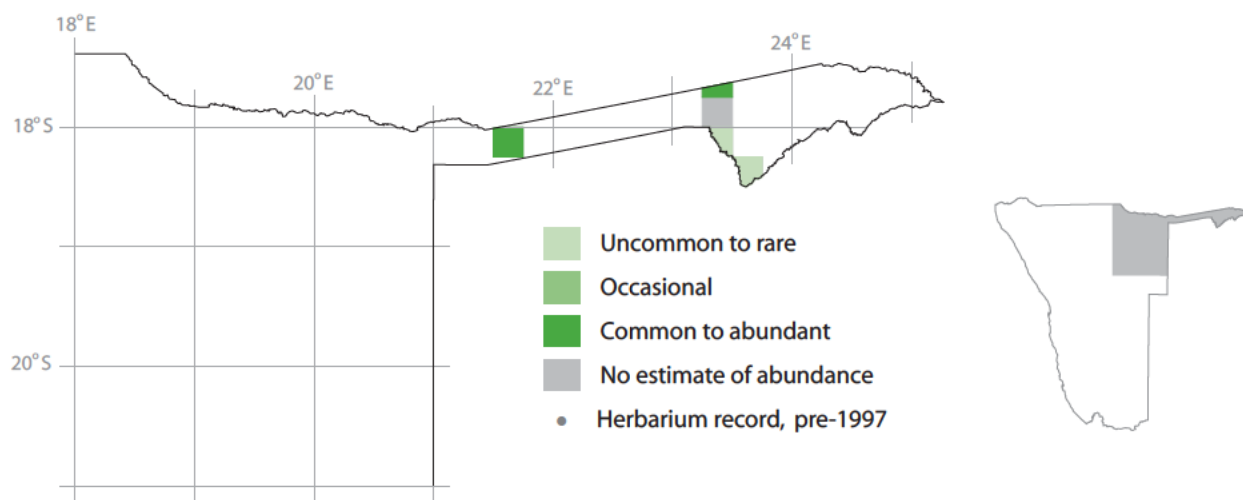
Syzygium cordatum

Waterberry

Mutoya (L); mukwe (T)

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

Evergreen tree. BRANCHLETS four-angled. LEAVES simple, with successive pairs set at right angles to each other, overlapping the ones above; elliptic to oblong to almost round, up to 80 mm long; blue-green above, paler green below; leathery; base deeply lobed; petiole absent or very short. FLOWERS creamy-white to pinkish, with numerous conspicuous stamens; sweetly scented, with copious nectar. FRUIT a berry, ovoid, up to 17 mm long; fleshy, deep purple when mature; tipped by remains of calyx.



DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Common to uncommon to rare as one moves southwards along the Kwando River; locally common along the eastern stretches of the Okavango River. These latter records represent a range extension.

HABITAT

Found on the banks of perennial rivers.

GROWTH FORM

A tree in the 3–8-m height category.

ANNUAL CYCLE

Observations were in May, June, August and December, only. FLOWERS in June, August and December. FRUIT in August and December. LEAVES present during months of observation, probably evergreen.

GENERAL

The wood is durable in water and used for building boats, as well as for fence poles. The fruit is edible, but sour, and is eaten fresh and used to make an alcoholic drink; it is also used medicinally and in magic.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.