

*Tamarix usneoides*

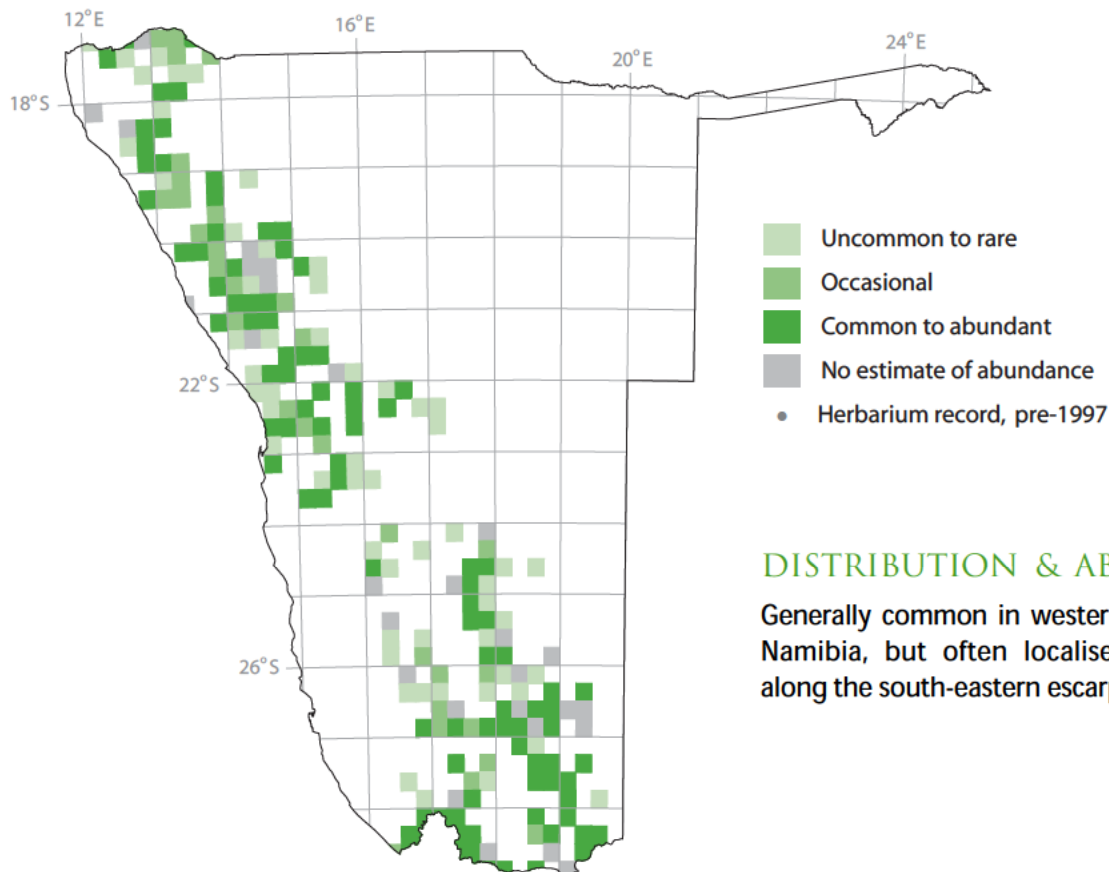
## Wild Tamarisk

Abiekwasgeelhout (A); Tamariske (G);  
omungwati (H); daweb (K)

[487 records from 215 (20%) squares]



Shrub or tree. LEAVES simple, **very small**, c. 1 x 0.5 mm; **almost scale-like**, sessile, closely overlapping each other; both surfaces **grey-green**. FLOWERS **very small, white, in feathery sprays**; male and female flowers on separate plants. FRUIT a three-valved capsule with small seeds.

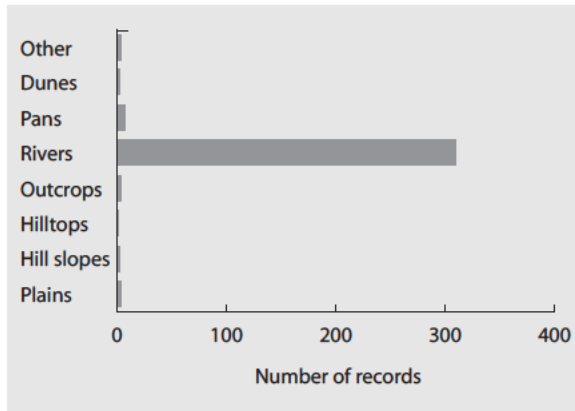


## DISTRIBUTION &amp; ABUNDANCE

Generally common in western and southern Namibia, but often localised. Uncommon along the south-eastern escarpment.

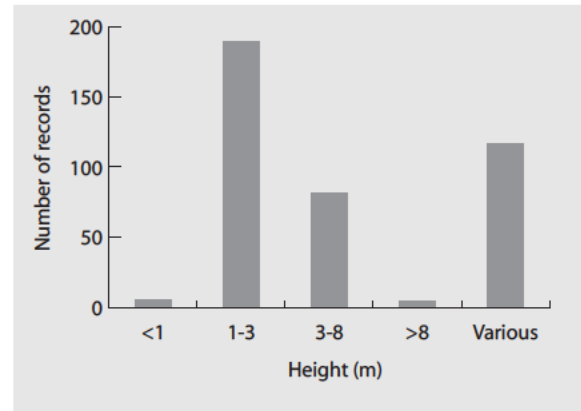
## HABITAT

Almost exclusively associated with rivers, also pans and floodplains; occasionally on rocky outcrops or hills. Generally in saline soils.



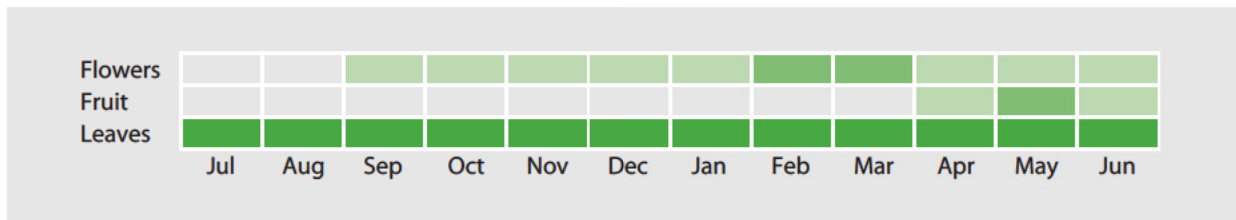
## GROWTH FORM

Predominantly a shrub (70% of all records) in the 1–3-m height class (68% of shrub records), but often taller. Trees also mainly 1–3 m high (57% of tree records), but may be up to 8 m or over. About 25% of records were of stands of trees of mixed heights. Numerous young seedlings seen in riverbeds after floodwaters have receded.



## ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS almost all year but never prolific. FRUIT single records almost every month, but a few records April to June. LEAVES essentially evergreen, with a few bare individuals noted in September; old and young leaves from April to October.



## GENERAL

Usually an indicator of a high, saline water table. Prolific seedling production in the westward-flowing ephemeral rivers after a flood. Often parasitised by *Tapinanthus*. The leaves are browsed; the wood is used for fuel and other purposes.

## CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.

*Tamarix usneoides*, leaves and flowers,  
C. Mannheimer

