

# *Tarchonanthus camphoratus*

## Camphor Bush

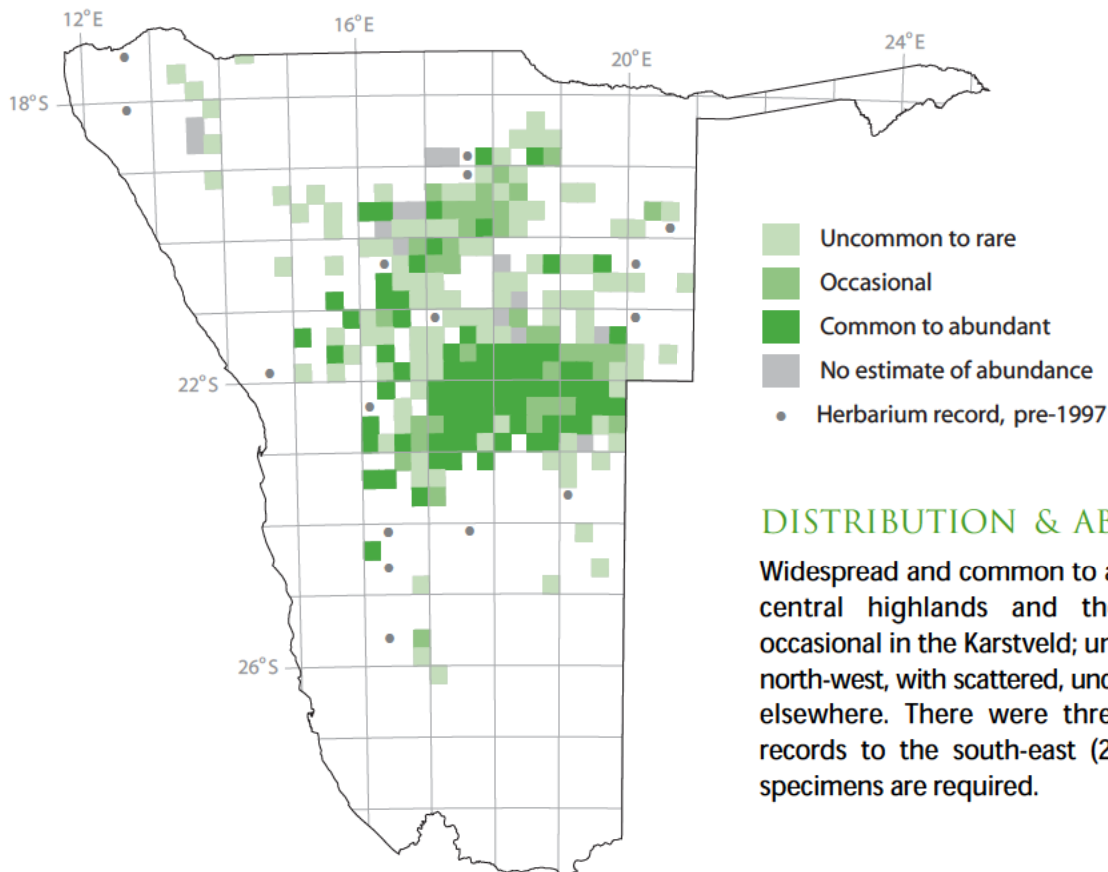
Vaalbos, wildekanferbos (A);  
Fahlbusch, Kampferbusch (G);  
omuteatupa (H); g!o (J); labusa (K)

[862 records from 241 (23%) squares]



Semi-deciduous shrub. LEAVES simple, oblanceolate to narrowly elliptic or obovate; tough; olive-green above; white-grey, **woolly below**, with distinct net-veining; margin entire to finely toothed; a **pleasant camphor-like fragrance when crushed**. INFLORESCENCE a terminal spray of **small fluffy heads**. FRUIT **with cottonwool-like covering**.

The fruit are inconspicuous and have probably been under-recorded. Some atlassers may have mistakenly recorded the flowers as fruit, and vice versa.

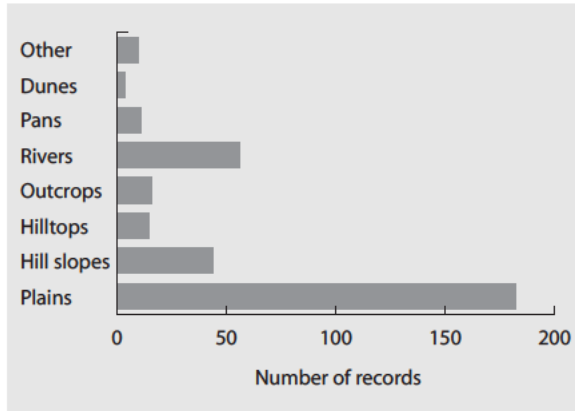


### DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Widespread and common to abundant in the central highlands and the central-east; occasional in the Karstveld; uncommon in the north-west, with scattered, uncommon records elsewhere. There were three, uncommon, records to the south-east (2419) for which specimens are required.

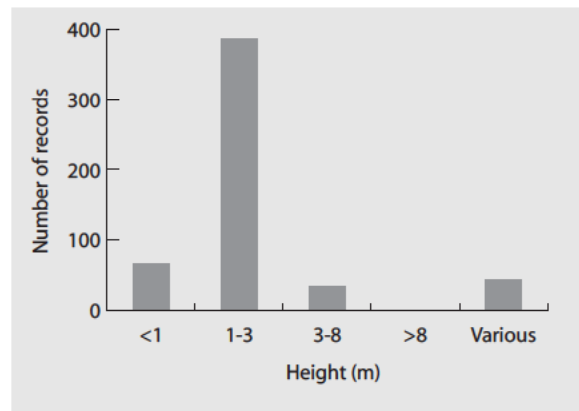
### HABITAT

Found in various habitats, but mostly on plains. Also found on hills and along dry rivers in the central highlands; along dry rivers on the north-central plateau; and on pans in the central-east. Substrates include sand, calcrete, mica schist, dolomite, gravel and other rocks.



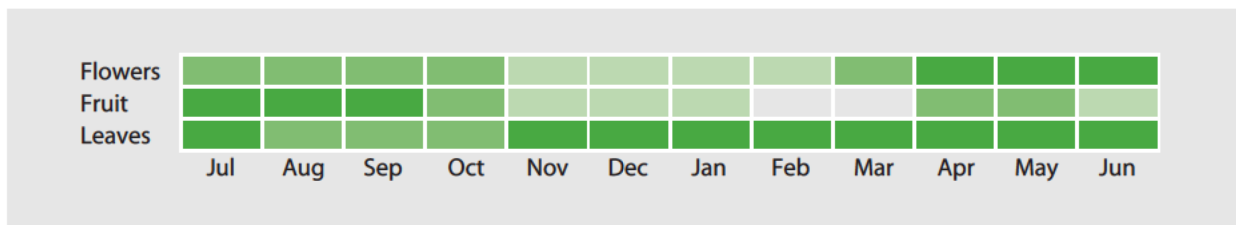
### GROWTH FORM

Generally a shrub in the 1–3-m height class (75% of records); sometimes taller. Occasionally a tree (5% of records). At a village in 2119AB there is a relatively huge specimen of 8 m high with a single, smooth trunk (20 cm diameter), growing in a depression; it has been browsed into a tree.



### ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS all year, but mostly in early winter. FRUIT all year, but mostly in late winter. LEAVES essentially evergreen, with bare individuals found from August to November, and young leaves from October to December.



### GENERAL

A favourite browse of livestock. Good honey is produced from the blossoms. The Cape Penduline Tit uses the woolly seeds for nesting material (FRI1). Often whole clumps of shrubs are destroyed by termites. The leaves are used medicinally. The plant may become encroaching in places. Roots are extremely hard and woody and can be polished and used for decorative purposes. It is of horticultural potential because the silvery foliage is attractive and fragrant, and it has flowers or fruit most of the year; the seeds also germinate easily, and the plant is drought- and frost-resistant.

### CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.