

Terminalia prunioides

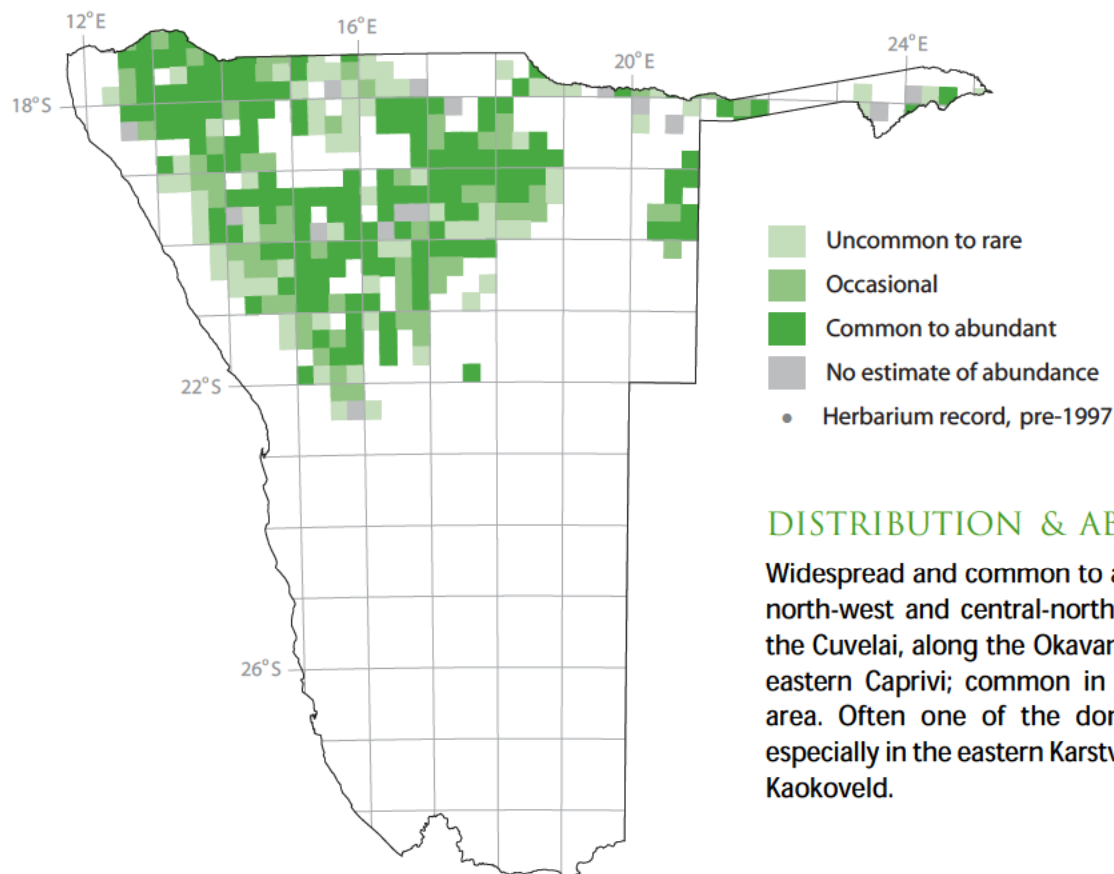
Blutfruchtbaum / Muhama

Purple-pod terminalia (E);
deurmekaarbos (A); omuhama (H, O);
heras (K)

[1,248 records from 328 (31%) squares]



Shrub or tree. BARK dark, rough, **vertically striated and fibrous**; young branchlets **plum-coloured**, often long and **becoming entangled with each other**; with spinescent dwarf branchlets. LEAVES **clustered on dwarf branchlets**, obovate-elliptic; dark green above, paler below; base running into petiole. FLOWERS cream, in long, slender spikes on ends of dwarf branchlets, unpleasant smelling. FRUIT up to 60 mm long, with **bright plum-red to purple wing**.

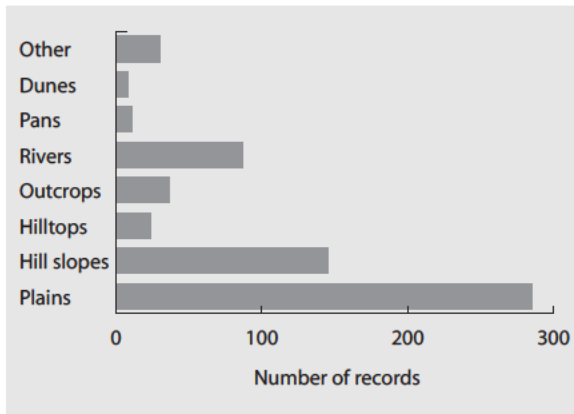


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Widespread and common to abundant in the north-west and central-north; uncommon in the Cuvelai, along the Okavango River and in eastern Caprivi; common in the Nyae Nyae area. Often one of the dominant species, especially in the eastern Karstveld and parts of Kaokoveld.

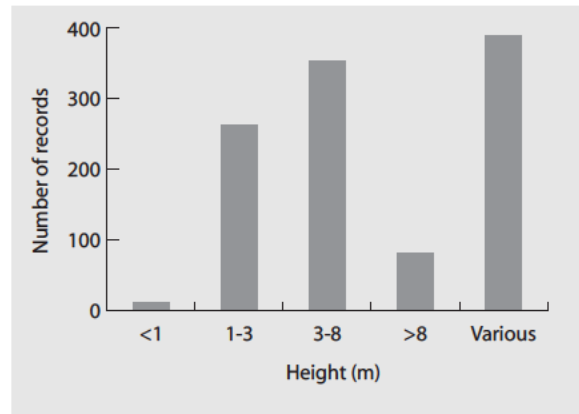
HABITAT

Found in various habitats, but mostly on plains. Also found on hill slopes in the north-west and on the north-central plateau; along rivers in the central-west and north-west; on rocky outcrops and hilltops in the north-west; around pans in the Cuvelai. Substrates include sand, gravel, calcrete, various types of rock including granite, calcrete, basalt. Also around salt pans and on termite mounds.



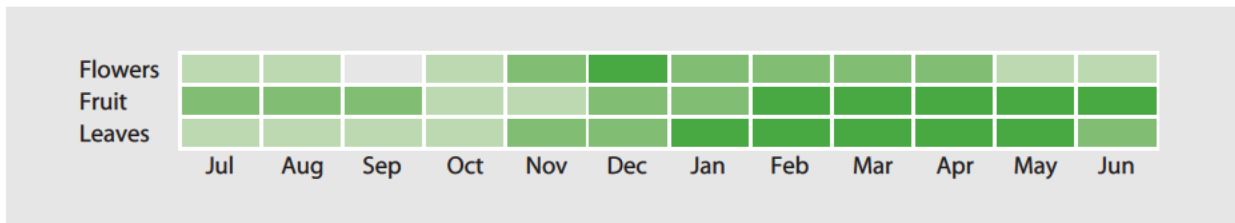
GROWTH FORM

About 60% trees and 40% shrubs. Shrubs mainly in the 1–3-m height class, trees mainly 3–8-m height class, although both can be taller. About 33% of stands were of mixed heights. In the Cuvelai and the north-east trees were mostly 8 m or taller. In the north-west, north-central plateau and central highlands trees were mostly in the 3–8 m range; in the central-west, shrubs were around 3 m.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS mainly November to April, but can continue until August in some years. Flowering is rainfall-dependent and the species often flowers twice in one season if there are late rains; it is not uncommon to see fresh new pods and new flowers on the same tree. **FRUIT** all year round, but mostly from December to the following September. **LEAVES** mainly November to June, with young leaves from October to January.



GENERAL

Heavily browsed by game. Bees produce good honey from the nectar; vultures nest in tall specimens in some areas. The wood is, amongst other uses, used for wagon parts, implement handles, knobkieries, building, fencing and firewood. Tea is made from the leaves and fruit, and the roots are used medicinally.

The species is often invasive, and is a major problem in the Karstveld, especially where trees (this or other species) have been harvested. Subject to bush-clearing and charcoal production in some areas; some individuals have been killed by parasites such as *Tapinanthus*.

A good shade tree, with attractive flowers and fruit, drought-resistant and fairly frost-tolerant.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.