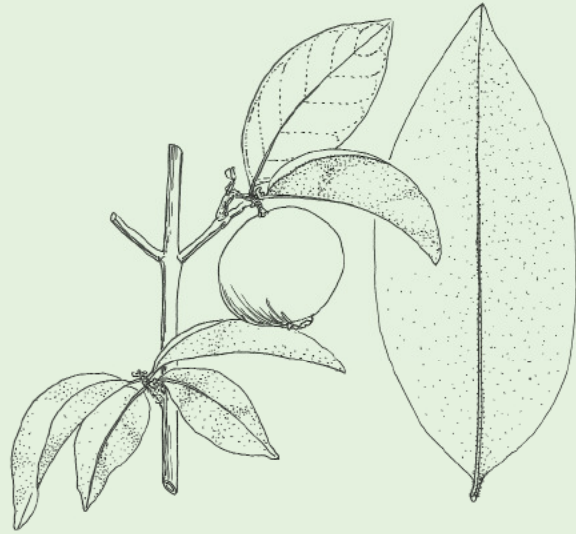


Vangueria infausta

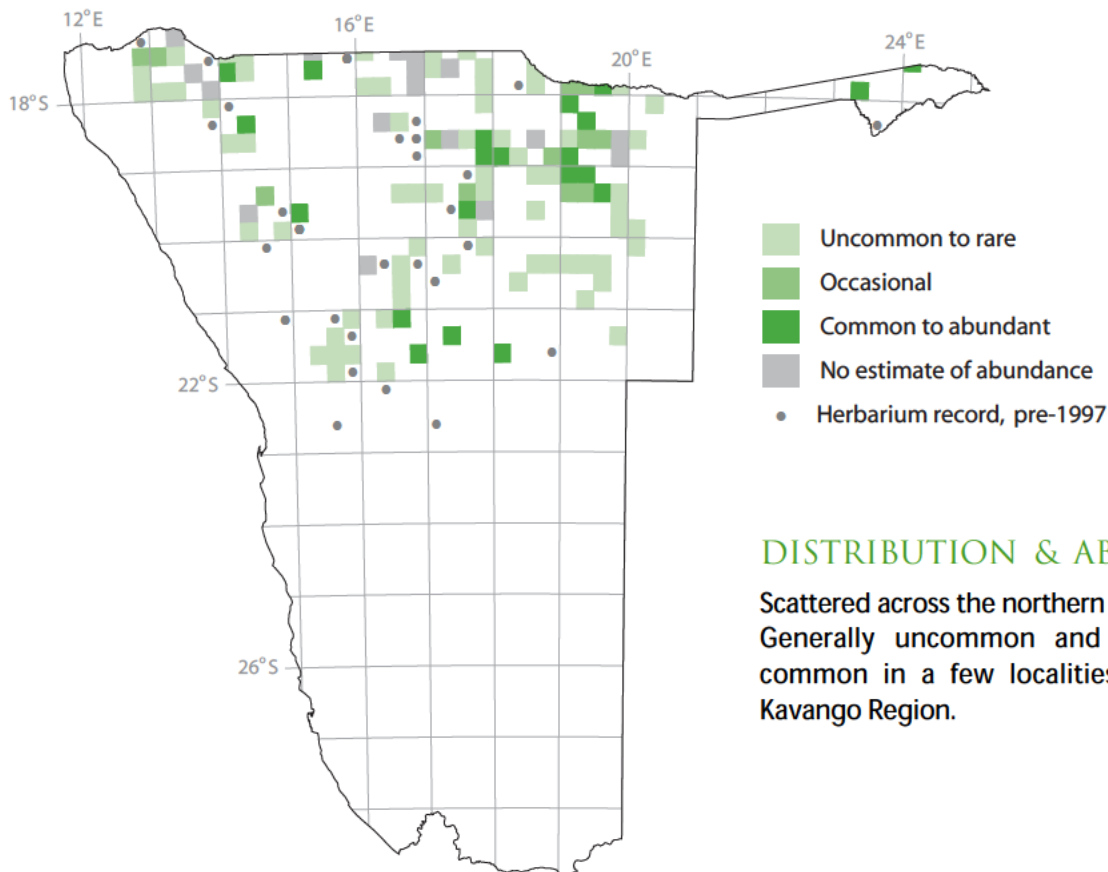
Nombumbu

Velvet wild-medlar (E); wildmispel, bergmispel (A); omudenja (H); ibbu (L); omumbu (O)

[182 records from 125 (12%) squares]



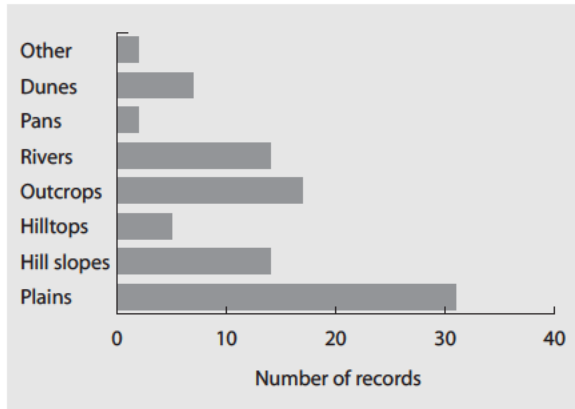
Deciduous, erect, shrub. BARK smooth, grey; young branchlets pale rust-brown, **densely downy**. LEAVES simple, opposite, broadly elliptic to ovate; **with dense, usually yellow-brown downy covering**; petiole **covered in dense rust-coloured down**; stipules hairy, tapering up to 20 mm long. FLOWERS in axillary clusters; greenish-white to yellowish, hairy. FRUIT round, hairy, up to 30 mm in diameter; tip with persistent ring left by the calyx; brown when ripe.

**DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE**

Scattered across the northern half of Namibia. Generally uncommon and localised, but common in a few localities, especially in Kavango Region.

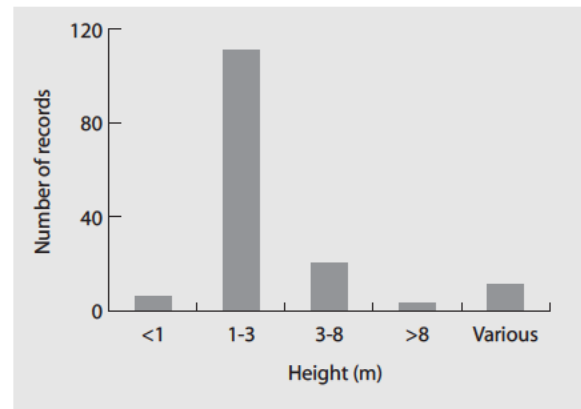
HABITAT

Found in various habitats, but mainly on plains and rocky outcrops; also along rivers in the north-west and north-east; on hill slopes on the north-central plateau; and on dunes in the north-east. Grows on sand, gravel or rocky substrates. Usually in mixed woodland and riverine forest.



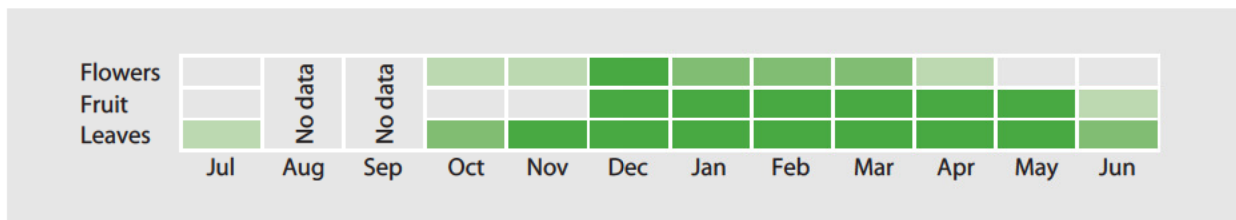
GROWTH FORM

Generally a shrub (88% of records), mostly in the 1–3-m height class; tree forms usually 3–8 m high, with one record over 8 m.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS from October to April, but mainly December. FRUIT December to June. LEAVES mainly October to June, with young leaves in October and November.



GENERAL

Often growing in the shade of other trees. The fruit is edible; the roots are used medicinally.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.

Carved elephant, Kavango Region, P. Reiner

