The revision of the genus *Ehretia* since the start of the TAP (Retief 2001) has divided *Ehretia rigida* in Namibia into *E. alba* and *E. namibiensis* (*E. rigida* is still a valid species, but it only occurs in South Africa).

Because it is not possible to go back to a sight record and check the identification, all abundance records for *E. rigida* have been mapped together and are presented below. Re-identified herbarium records have been included as an inset map to show the distribution of the two species.
Ehretia alba
= Ehretia rigida (in part)

White Puzzle-bush
Deurmekaarbos (A); Bergflieder (G); omusepa (H)

[711 records from 312 (29%) squares]

A semi-deciduous shrub, with rigid branches going in all directions. Bark smooth, grey to dark grey. Leaves generally clustered on dwarf branches; obovate to elliptic, 6–25 mm; hairless; midrib and lateral veins prominent below; margin entire, but with bristles which make it feel coarse; apex tapering or rounded; base tapering. Flowers white to cream, young buds pale mauve to lilac; corolla tube and lobes c. 3 mm long; sweet-scented. Fruit almost round. 4–6 mm, with persistent calyx; red.

Flowers are small but conspicuous, fruit might be overlooked at a passing glance. This species was formerly known as E. rigida in Namibia, and might be confused with E. namibiensis.

Abundance and distribution are shown along with E. namibiensis (page 565). For other aspects of the biology, all records of E. rigida, excluding those in the northwest, have been renamed E. alba.
DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE
Predominantly in central Namibia and generally uncommon to occasional or common in places. There are only a few records of this species in the north-west.

HABITAT
Found in various habitats, but mainly on plains and river banks; also on hill slopes and hilltops in the central highlands and dunes in the southeast. Occurs on rocky, as well as sandy substrates and calcrite.

GROWTH FORM
Predominantly a shrub up to 3 m high, but occasionally higher; rarely a tree.

ANNUAL CYCLE
Flowers mainly September to January, with some flowers until May. Fruit October to May, with a peak in December and January, but never prolific. Leaves some bare individuals from July to November, with young leaves mainly September and October.

GENERAL
Heavily browsed. This plant has the ability to coppice some distance away from the parent plant; it would make a good hedge plant for gardens. Sweetly scented when flowering; often flowers quite profusely.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS
None recorded.
**Ehretia namibiensis**

= Ehretia rigida (in part)  
= Ehretia obtusifolia  
= Ehretia amoena

**Namibian Puzzle-bush**

[121 records from 72 (7%) squares]

Shrub. Bark light grey; stems with scattered bristles and glands. Leaves alternate or clustered on older branches; broadly ovate to broadly elliptic, 20–50 mm long; sparsely hairy on both sides, dull yellowish-green; micrib with glandular bristles below; margin entire to shallowly toothed; apex rounded, notched or with a small point; base tapering. Flowers lavender blue or light mauve; 8–9 mm long; corolla lobes shorter than tube; flower stalk and calyx with dense glandular hairs. Fruit a fleshy berry, almost round, 5–6 mm.

This is a recently described species with two subspecies. Subspecies kaokoensis occurs in the northwest and subsp. namibiensis in the rest of the country. This species can be confused with *E. alba*.

Abundance and distribution are shown along with *E. alba* (page 565). For other aspects of the biology, records of *E. rigida* from the north-west, as well as records of *E. obtusifolia*, have been renamed *E. namibiensis*. 
DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Found in scattered localities in most of Namibia north of 26° S, but mostly in the north-west. Subspecies kaokoensis is uncommon to rare north-west of about 20° S and 16° E. Subspecies namibiensis is uncommon to occasionally common in the rest of the country.

HABITAT

Subspecies kaokoensis is found mostly along dry rivers or on plains; subsp. namibiensis in various habitats, but mostly on plains, but also hill slopes.

GROWTH FORM

Mostly a shrub in the 1–3-m height class; subsp. namibiensis is occasionally a tree of over 3 m high.

ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS from October to January, with a second flush in late summer. FRUIT mainly March and April. LEAVES mainly December to June, with young leaves in October.

GENERAL

Browsed by game and livestock.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.