Grewia tenax
Small-leaved Cross-berry
Kleinblaarkruisbessie (A); Kreuzbeere (G); omundjendjere (H); //ain (K); omundjebele (O)

[382 records from 211 (20%) squares]

Slender, deciduous shrub. Leaves small, leathery; dark green above; grey-green below; both surfaces slightly hairy to hairless. Flowers solitary, leaf-opposed, small and white. Fruit deeply four-lobed (occasionally 2–3-lobed); small, yellow to orange-red.

DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE
Fairly widespread over much of Namibia, excluding the Namib Desert, the central-east and Caprivi. Generally uncommon, but common in some areas. Scattered records from the north-east represent range extensions in Namibia, for which there are no specimens thus far.
HABITAT
Found in various habitats, although mostly associated with dry rivers and hill slopes. In the south it is often found on rocky outcrops. Grows on stony, rocky, sandy and loamy substrates.

GROWTH FORM
A shrub up to 3 m high, occasionally higher (4% of records).

ANNUAL CYCLE
Flowers from September to April, peaking in November and December and again in March; flowering appears to be affected by rainfall. Fruit some present all year round, but mostly from December to June. Leaves on some plants all year round, but most profuse from December to June; young leaves from September to December.

GENERAL
Goats and cattle browse leaves and twigs. The fruit is edible and made into an alcoholic beverage; stems are used for arrow-shafts.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS
None recorded.

Grewia tenax, Karas Region,
B. Curtis