Maerua gilgii
Rivierwitbos
River bush-cherry (E)

[21 records from 12 (1%) squares]

Dense, many-stemmed, evergreen shrub or small tree; branches slender, often drooping. Bark grey. Leaves simple, spirally arranged; oblong to elongate, much longer than wide; both surfaces pale green; apex pointed with a fine hair-like tip. Inflorescence a terminal or axillary spike. Flowers whitish-green to yellowish, petals absent; stamens very conspicuous. Fruit spherical.

DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE
Confined to the vicinity of the Orange River, where it is common.

HABITAT
On river banks and floodplains. Also occasionally in dry washes, hill slopes and on plains.

GROWTH FORM
A shrub or shrubby tree, generally up to 3 m high, but sometimes higher.

ANNUAL CYCLE
Observations were only made in five months. Flowers September to November, but mostly in October. Fruit October to December, and May. Leaves apparently evergreen.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS
Very restricted along Orange River – could be affected by increased human activity there.