**Tamarix usneoides**

Wild Tamarisk

Abiekwasgeelhout (A); Tamariske (G); omungwati (H); daweb (K)

[487 records from 215 (20%) squares]

Shrub or tree. Leaves simple, very small, c. 1 x 0.5 mm; almost scale-like, sessile, closely overlapping each other; both surfaces grey-green. Flowers very small, white, in feathery sprays; male and female flowers on separate plants. Fruit a three-valved capsule with small seeds.

**DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE**

Generally common in western and southern Namibia, but often localised. Uncommon along the south-eastern escarpment.
HABITAT
Almost exclusively associated with rivers, also pans and floodplains; occasionally on rocky outcrops or hills. Generally in saline soils.

GROWTH FORM
Predominantly a shrub (70% of all records) in the 1–3-m height class (68% of shrub records), but often taller. Trees also mainly 1–3 m high (57% of tree records), but may be up to 8 m or over. About 25% of records were of stands of trees of mixed heights. Numerous young seedlings seen in riverbeds after floodwaters have receded.

ANNUAL CYCLE
Flowers almost all year but never prolific. Fruit single records almost every month, but a few records April to June. Leaves essentially evergreen, with a few bare individuals noted in September; old and young leaves from April to October.

GENERAL
Usually an indicator of a high, saline water table. Prolific seedling production in the westward-flowing ephemeral rivers after a flood. Often parasitised by Tapinanthus. The leaves are browsed; the wood is used for fuel and other purposes.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS
None recorded.

*Tamarix usneoides*, leaves and flowers,
C. Mannheimer