**Acacia haematoxylon**

**Vaalkameel**

Grey camel-thorn (E); Ikhas (K)

[164 records from 75 (7%) squares]

Shrub or small tree with **markedly grey appearance**. **Thorns extremely slender**, straight and white. **Leaves grey**; leaflets so tiny and close together that the leaves appear to be once-compound only. **Flowers in yellow balls**. **Fruit a woody, grey, velvety pod**; narrow, cylindrical, sickle-shaped to spirally contorted. Flowers and pods are obvious. Could be confused with *Tarchonanthus camphoratus*. This species cannot be confused with any other *Acacia*, but hybrids between it and *A. eniolooba* have features midway between the two.

**DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE**

Common to uncommon in south-eastern Namibia; sometimes abundant and one of the dominant tree species in many squares. There are isolated localities to the west and northwest of its main range, in an area of dunes just west of the Schwarzrand, south of Malahöhe in 2416DD (specimen HOR2/158) and 2516BB (MANI). Generally evenly distributed, but sometimes clumped or localised.
HABITAT
Mostly found on dunes and sand hummocks; also on sandy plains and interdune valleys; sometimes dry river courses, where it was generally rare. Substrate always sand or gravel. Individuals over 8 m were mostly recorded in dry riverbeds.

GROWTH FORM
Generally a tree from 1–8 m tall; occasionally over 8 m. Often a shrub or shrubby tree up to 8 m high. Forms thickets south-east of Windhoek. Mixed populations of various heights were often recorded.

ANNUAL CYCLE
Flowers November to March. Fruit mostly February to May, with a few records in other months. Leaves almost year-round, although many trees bare or with old leaves in September; new leaves produced in response to rain in 2318CB in October 2000 (FOR1).

GENERAL
Die-back and coppicing were noted in areas to the south-east of Windhoek. Fruit eaten by stock.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS
None recorded. Protected by forestry legislation.

Acacia haematoxyylon, E. Ellinger