

*Acacia montis-usti*

## Brandberg Acacia

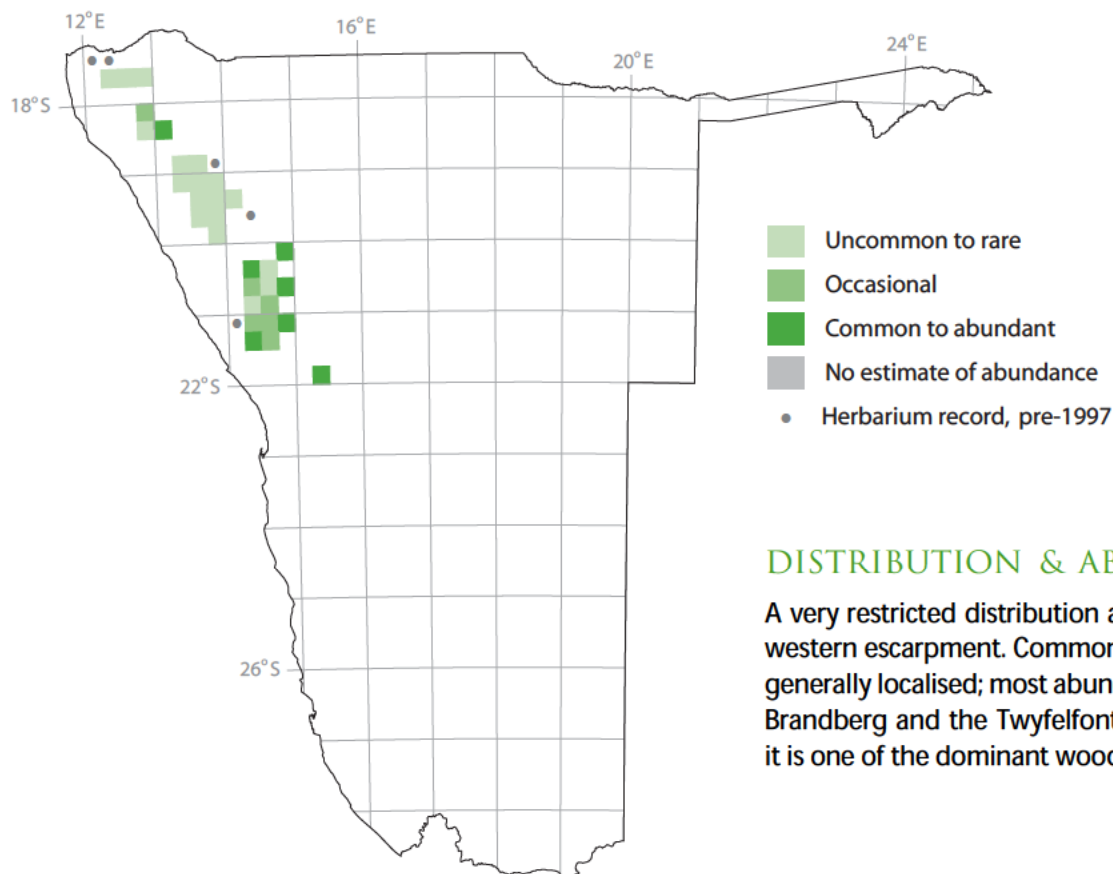
Nu-haib, aru, sai (K)

[72 records from 30 (3%) squares]



A **V-shaped shrub or tree** with a flat, spreading crown. **Numerous stems** arise from near the ground and branch higher up, resembling a **witch's broom**. **BARK** red-brown to yellowish olive-green; **flaking off in papery sheets**. **THORNS** paired, **slightly curved**, widely spaced. **LEAVES** medium-sized; petiole short with gland at base of first pinna pair. **FLOWERS** in cream-coloured to yellow spikes. **FRUIT** a thick, woody, brittle pod; dark brown.

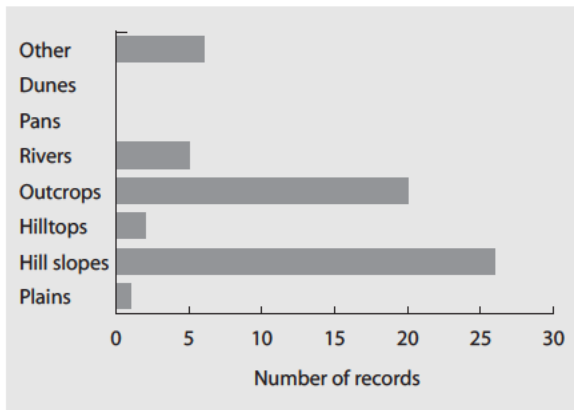
In the extreme north-west, this plant may be confused with *A. mellifera* subsp. *mellifera* from a distance.

**DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE**

A very restricted distribution along the north-western escarpment. Common to uncommon, generally localised; most abundant around the Brandberg and the Twyfelfontein area, where it is one of the dominant woody species.

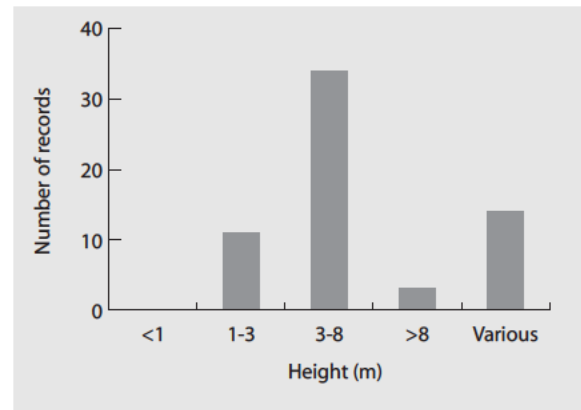
## HABITAT

Mostly rocky hill slopes and rocky outcrops.



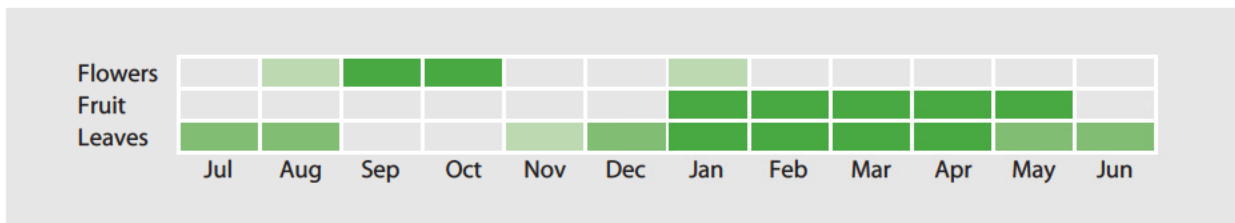
## GROWTH FORM

Mostly a shrubby tree of 3–8 m.



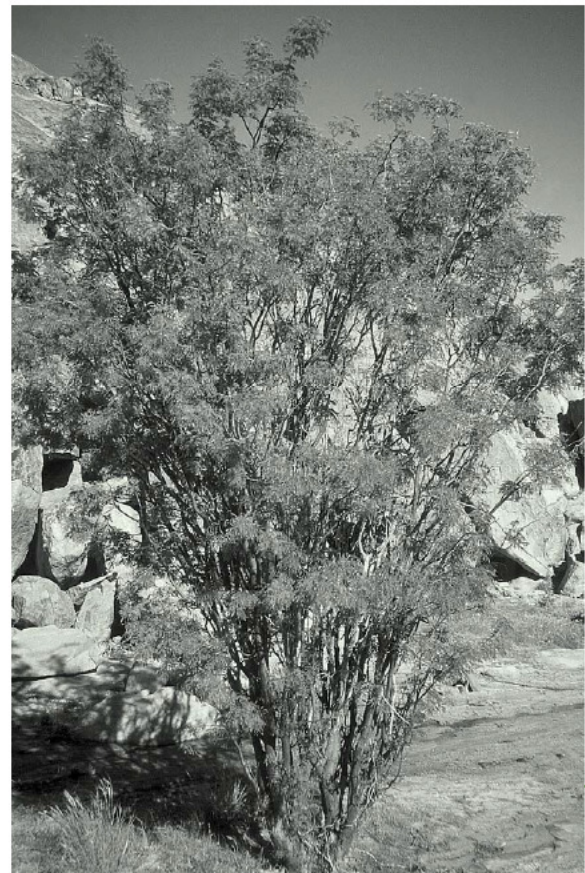
## ANNUAL CYCLE

**FLOWERS** mainly September and October. Coates Palgrave (2002) indicates flowering in November and December, but this was not confirmed by herbarium or TAP records, despite eight observations of annual cycle during those two months. **FRUIT** January to May, with one record in October. **LEAVES** December to August, with leaf buds in November.



## CONSERVATION CONCERNS

As an endemic with a very restricted range, it is worthy of conservation, but it does not appear to be threatened as its habitat is inaccessible and it is currently not exploited for anything. Protected by forestry legislation.



*Acacia montis-usti*, Brandberg, K. Roberts