

Acacia nilotica

Lekkerruikpeul

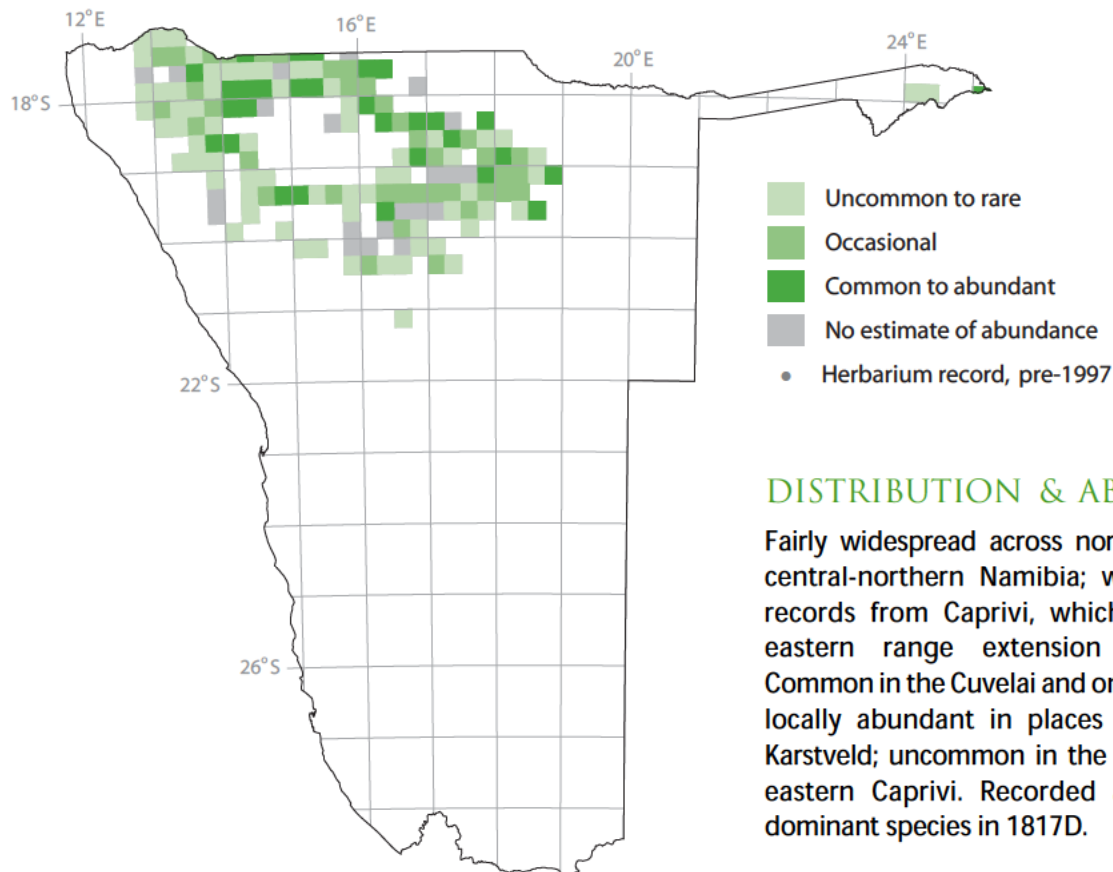
Scented-pod Acacia (E); olufu (H);
omityuula (Ok)

[412 records from 156 (15%) squares]



A low, spreading shrub or small tree with a rounded crown. BARK dark, fissured; **cracking on young growth**. THORNS straight, sharp and needle-like; **swept backwards**. LEAVES medium-sized, with many small, **closely packed leaflets on a hairy rachis**. FLOWERS in yellow balls. FRUIT a long and straight pod with diagnostic **constrictions between seeds, resembling a string of beads**; **pleasantly and strongly scented**.

Flowers and pods are conspicuous. When not in pod it could be confused with *A. karroo*, but is distinguished by its closely packed leaflets and swept-back thorns.

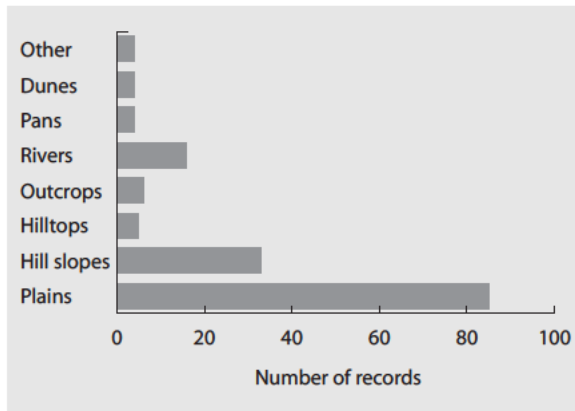


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Fairly widespread across north-western and central-northern Namibia; with three new records from Caprivi, which represent an eastern range extension for Namibia. Common in the Cuvelai and on Impalila Island; locally abundant in places in the eastern Karstveld; uncommon in the north-west and eastern Caprivi. Recorded as one of the dominant species in 1817D.

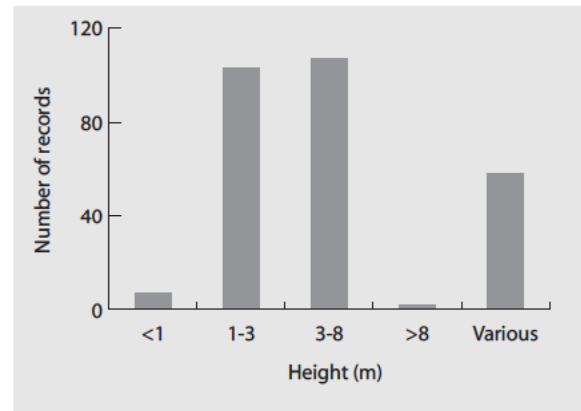
HABITAT

Found chiefly on plains and hill slopes, in mixed woodlands; along dry rivers in the north-west. Grows on sand and calcrete.



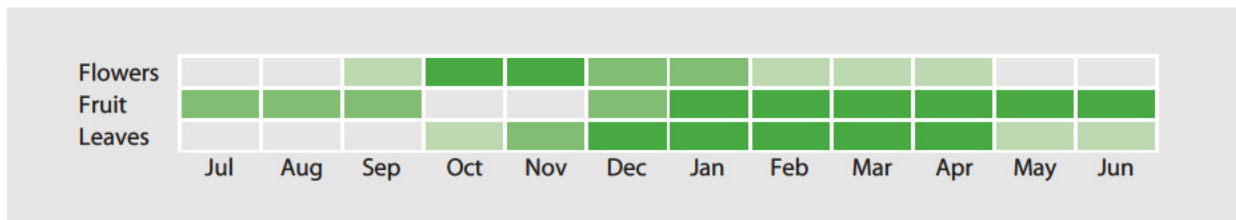
GROWTH FORM

Generally a tree up to 8 m tall; often shrubby, especially in the 1–3-m height category; seldom over 8 m tall.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS peak in October and November, but may be found from September to April. FRUIT most months, but mostly from January to June. LEAVES generally November to April, with young leaves produced from October to December.



GENERAL

Heavily browsed by a number of animals, including various antelope species and rhino. Spines used traditionally, in sewing and basketry, and to remove splinters. These plants are frequently infested by parasites.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.

Acacia nilotica, Oshana Region,
B. Curtis

