

*Acacia reficiens*

## Rooihaak

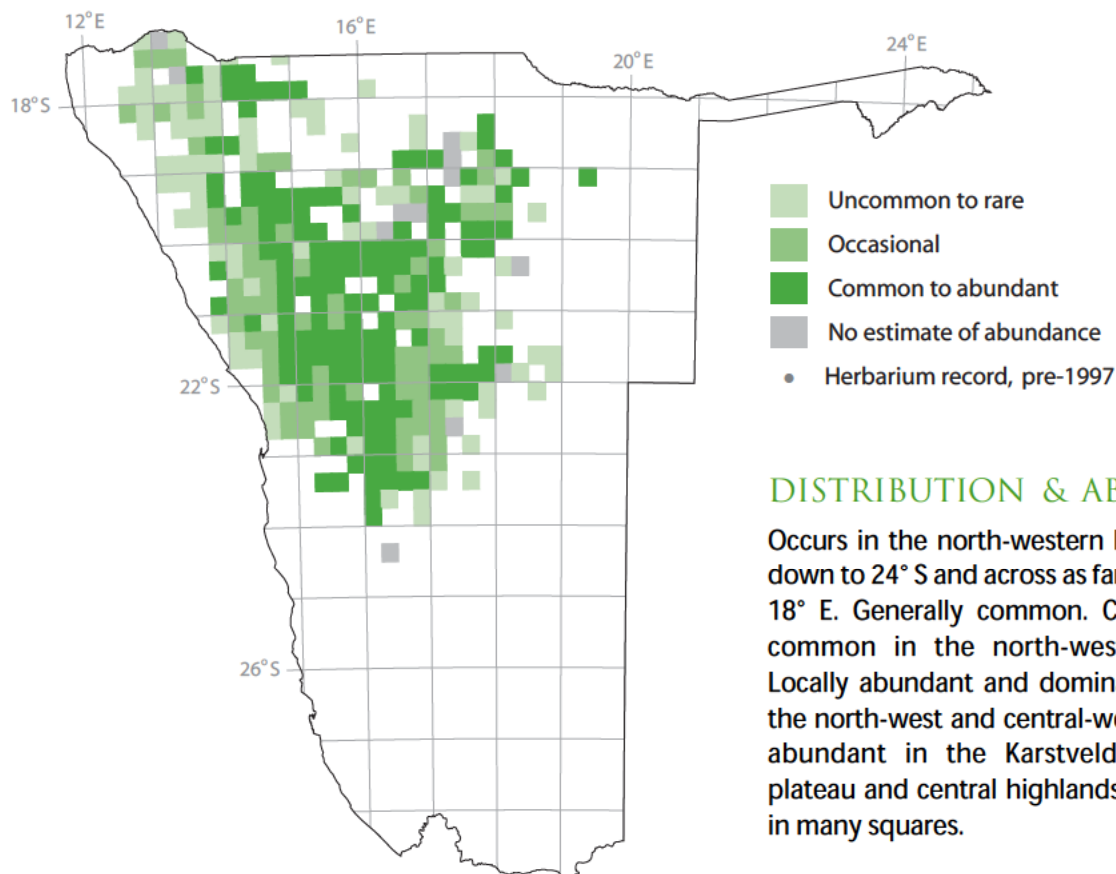
Red-thorn (E); Rotrindenakazie (G);  
Igu (J, Nh); !gûs (K)

[1,055 records from 316 (30%) squares]



Usually a V-shaped shrub. BARK reddish, especially in younger growth. THORNS paired, either both hooked, both straight, or one hooked and the other straight. LEAVES with 1–4 pinna pairs and 5–11 leaflet pairs, no hairs on margins. FLOWERS in creamy-white balls. FRUIT a flat, linear-oblong, reddish-brown pod; slightly pointed at the tips.

Flowers and pods are fairly conspicuous. The plant is very similar to *A. luederitzii*. May be distinguished by fewer pinna pairs, and leaflets that lack hairs along the margins (although there can be hairs on the midrib). More often a shrub than a tree, but often a tree where it overlaps with *A. luederitzii*. Many TAP records may have been misidentified. We have tried to clean the data where possible, based on growth form and distribution. Completely uncertain records have been deleted from the database. Farmers often do not distinguish between the two species, and simply refer to them as 'basterkameel'.

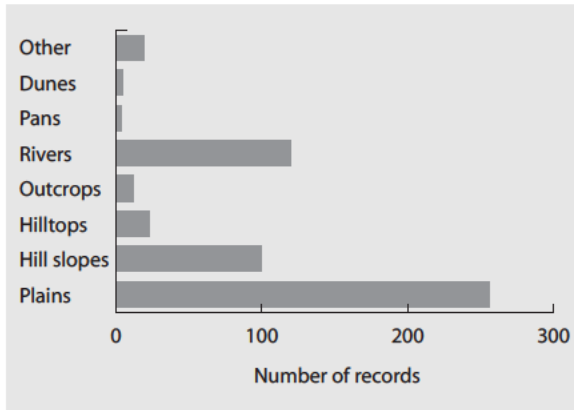


## DISTRIBUTION &amp; ABUNDANCE

Occurs in the north-western half of Namibia, down to 24° S and across as far east as roughly 18° E. Generally common. Common to uncommon in the north-west and Cuvelai. Locally abundant and dominant in places in the north-west and central-west. Common to abundant in the Karstveld, north-central plateau and central highlands, and dominant in many squares.

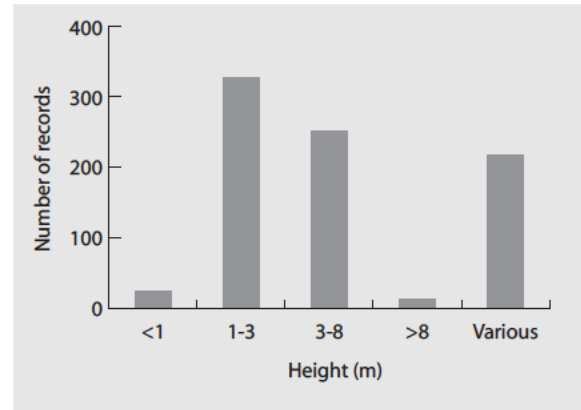
## HABITAT

Found in various habitats, but predominantly on plains. Also found on hills and in dry rivers in the north-west; around pans and oshanas in the Cuvelai; along dry rivers in the central-west and on hills on the north-central plateau and the central highlands. Mostly growing on gravel or rocky/stony substrates, including granite and calcrete; seldom on sand.



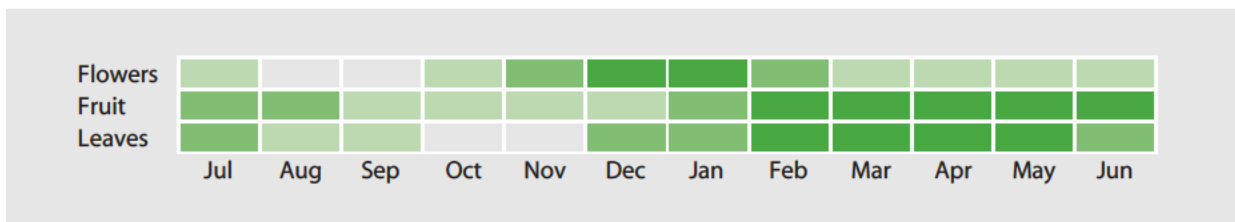
## GROWTH FORM

About as often a shrub or shrubby tree as a tree. Most often from 1–3 m high, but frequently 3–8 m; seldom over 8 m. Stands of mixed heights found throughout the country.



## ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS mainly December and January, but a few records for most of the year. FRUIT on most trees from February to June, but some pods on some plants all year; young pods from November to March, with ripe pods mostly in July. LEAVES deciduous, with most trees bare from August to November; young leaves are produced from September to February.



## GENERAL

Regarded as a very aggressive invader in many places, especially, but not necessarily, in disturbed areas. Fruits prolifically, and appears to have the ability to form a seed bank, unlike *A. mellifera*. Seeds germinate easily, and it has the ability to displace other species even without disturbance. Noted as having 'taken over' where *A. mellifera* and *Colophospermum mopane* have been controlled by felling and charcoal production. In the west, near Omaruru, dense thickets about 1.5 m high have been formed by this species. Die-backs of large specimens have been observed for some time. Harvested for charcoal production, producing good charcoal; subject to bush-clearing.

Leaves, flowers, bark and branches are browsed by a variety of animals, including springbok, giraffe, rhino and elephant. The gum is edible; the bark and roots are used medicinally.

## CONSERVATION CONCERNS

Of concern because of its effect on other species.