

Acacia robynsiana

Hemelbesem

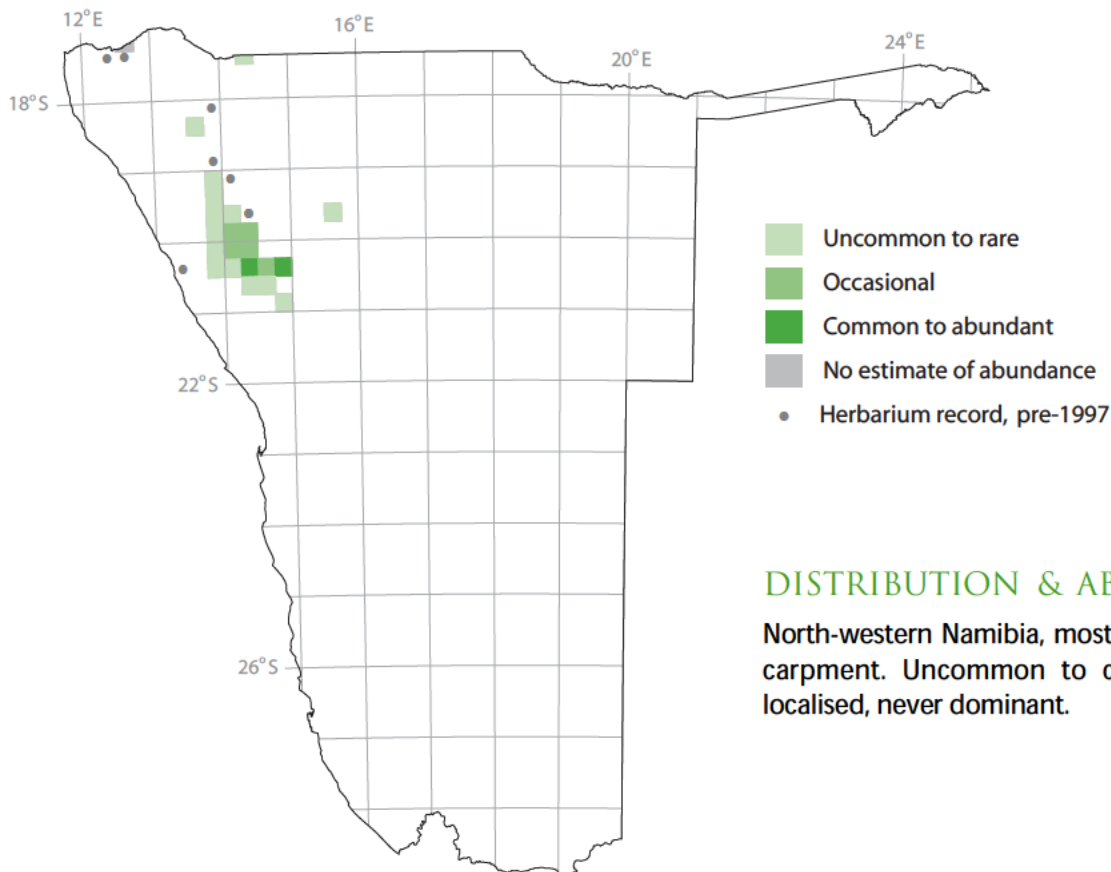
Whip-stick acacia (E); Antennenakazie (G); Inue (K)

[79 records from 22 (2%) squares]



An **untidy**, open shrub with a few **very long, slender, whip-like branches reaching to the sky**; generally, growing on rocky hilltops. **THORNS** small and hooked. **LEAVES** with **1–3 well-spaced pinna pairs** and a **gland at the junction of each pinna pair**. **FLOWERS** in pale yellow spikes. **FRUIT** a flattened pod, fairly straight, with thickened margin, yellowish-brown.

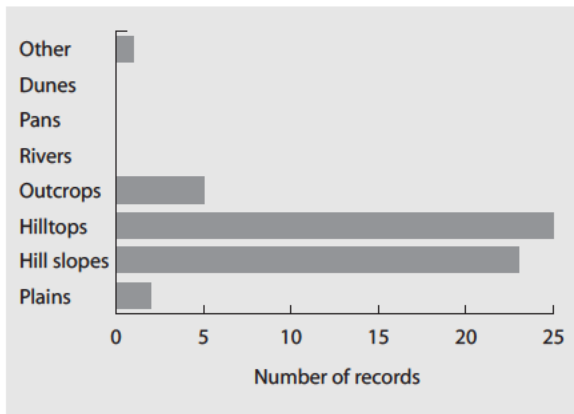
Flowers and pods are fairly conspicuous. Cannot easily be confused with other species.

**DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE**

North-western Namibia, mostly along the escarpment. Uncommon to common, often localised, never dominant.

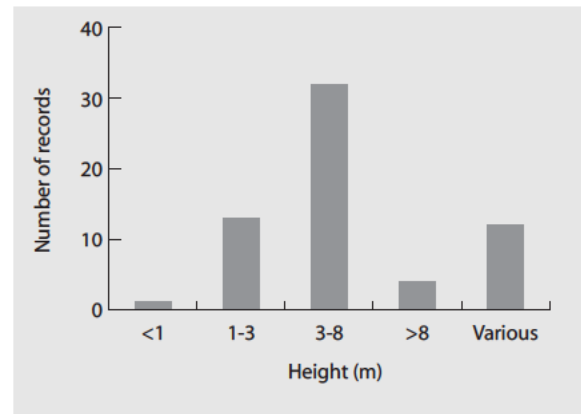
HABITAT

Mostly on rocky hilltops and hill slopes. Always on rock.



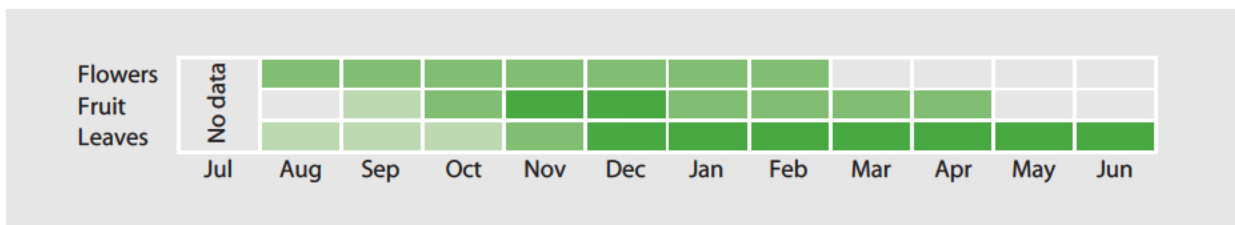
GROWTH FORM

A shrubby tree, mostly 3–8 m tall, occasionally over 8 m; often a shrub 1–3 m high.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS August to February. FRUIT from September to April. LEAVES present on at least some trees from November until August, with young leaves in November and December.



GENERAL

Cultivation of this species is untested, but it has potential as a feature plant in dry gardens. Has been used to provide masts for high frequency radios. The long branches are sometimes used to construct temporary shelters.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

This species is endemic to the Namib Desert, but is not threatened as it inhabits inaccessible places and is not utilised much. Protected by forestry legislation.

Acacia robynsiana, Kaokoveld, B. Curtis

