

Baphia massaiensis

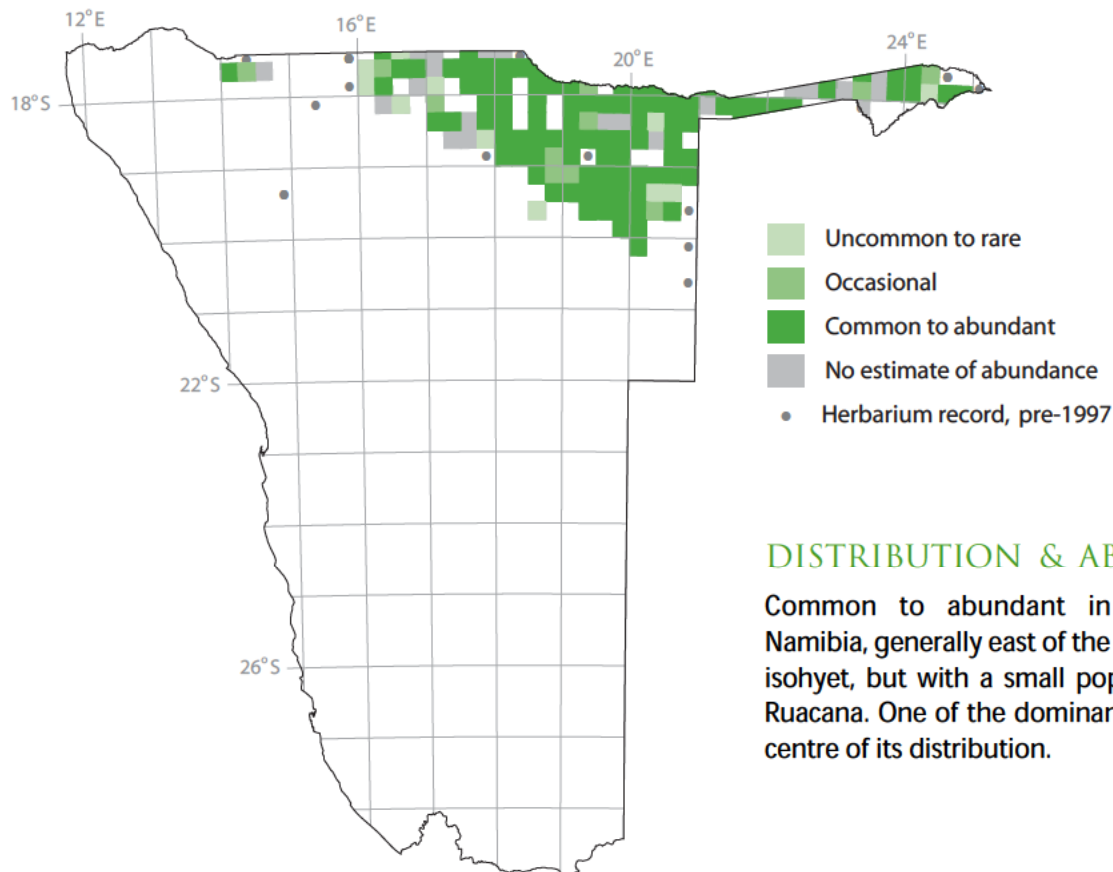
Omulyambambi

Sand camwood (E); isunde (L);
ofufwe (OK); mbun(d)je (Rk, Rum)

[298 records from 145 (14%) squares]



Shrub. BARK dark brown to reddish-black. LEAVES simple, alternate, **usually obovate**, but often with tapering tips; dull green above and pale green below; **folded inwards along midrib, lateral veins prominent**. FLOWERS sweetly scented; **white** to pale rose with a **central, golden-yellow spot**; petals crinkly. FRUIT a flattened pod with long, drawn out apex; woody, reddish-brown to dark shiny brown; splitting open when ripe and leaving two twisted valves. Flowers and pods are conspicuous.

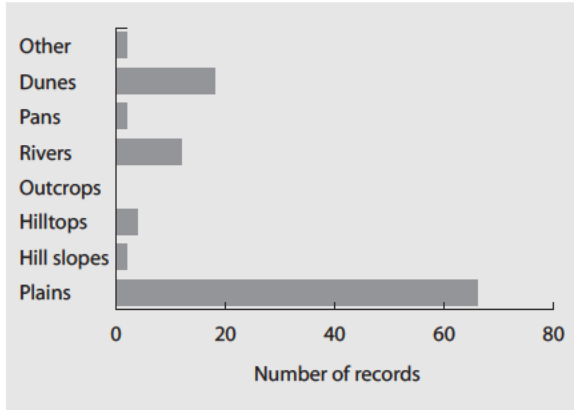


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Common to abundant in north-eastern Namibia, generally east of the 500-mm rainfall isohyet, but with a small population around Ruacana. One of the dominant species in the centre of its distribution.

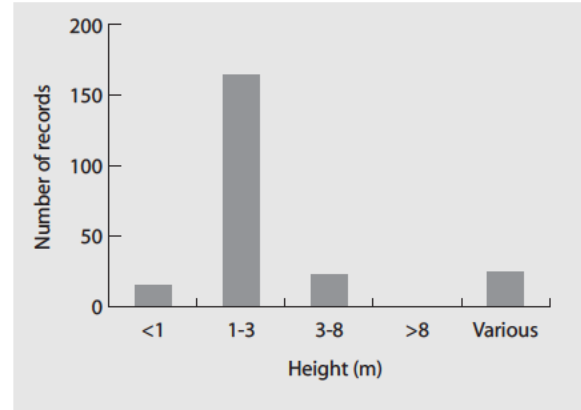
HABITAT

Predominantly found on plains, but also on dunes and occasionally in other habitats. Always on sand.



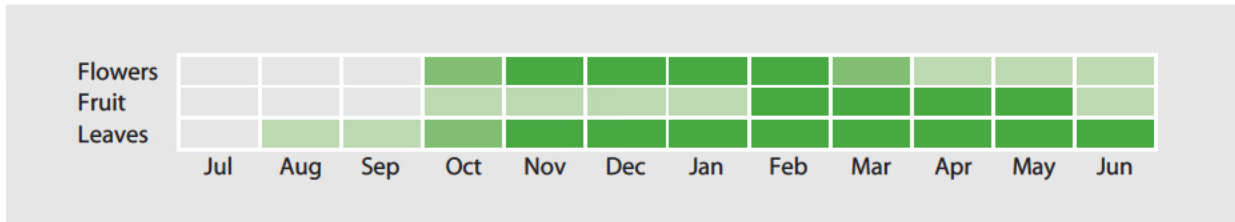
GROWTH FORM

Generally a shrub up to 3 m tall, occasionally over 3 m. Sometimes thicket-forming.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS October to March, with occasional records until June. FRUIT mostly February to May, with a few records earlier and later. LEAVES mainly October till June, with young leaves from August to October.



GENERAL

Common along road verges and other disturbed areas. The fruit and leaves are eaten by game and livestock. It has various medicinal and traditional uses. *Baphia massaiensis* has horticultural potential for frost-free areas due to its attractive flowers.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS: None recorded.

Baphia massaiensis, flowers, B. Curtis

