

# *Bauhinia petersiana*

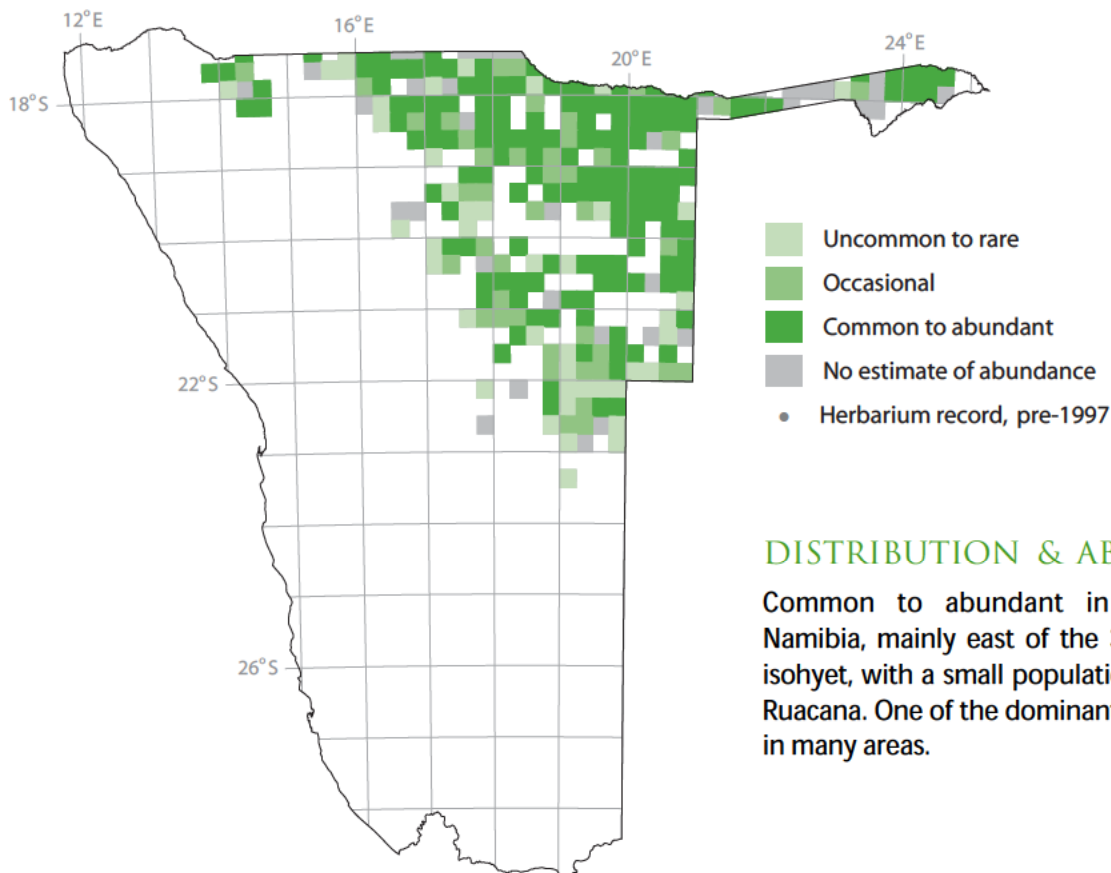
## Koffiebeeskrou

White bauhinia (E); omukatjipera (H); Iganib (K); omutwanghuta (Ok); muhusi (Rk); muntjuti (Rum); mupondo (L)

[665 records from 279 (26%) squares]



Semi-deciduous shrub often climbing into or over other plants. BRANCHES coil around other plants and some have hooks or spurs to anchor themselves. LEAVES **bilobed**, broader than long, 25–50 x 30–50 mm; leaf tip divided **up to two-thirds of leaf length**. FLOWERS **usually white**, may be pink; **petals c. 60 mm long, margin wavy**. FRUIT a pod, c. 150 x 25 mm, dark brown to black, flattened, woody, pointed at both ends; splitting along seams with sides curling up like a cork-screw.

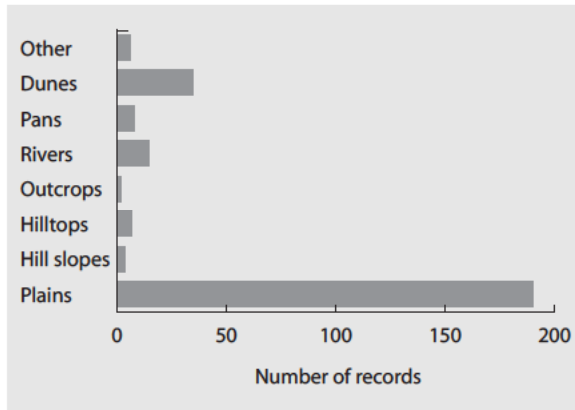


### DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Common to abundant in north-eastern Namibia, mainly east of the 350-mm rainfall isohyet, with a small population just south of Ruacana. One of the dominant woody species in many areas.

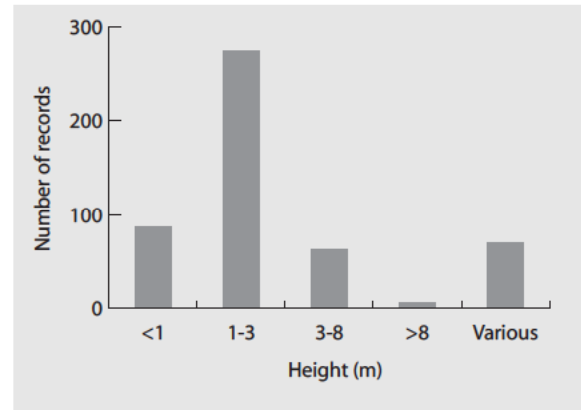
## HABITAT

Mostly on plains in deep, sandy soils, but also on small dunes; sometimes in dry rivers or pans.



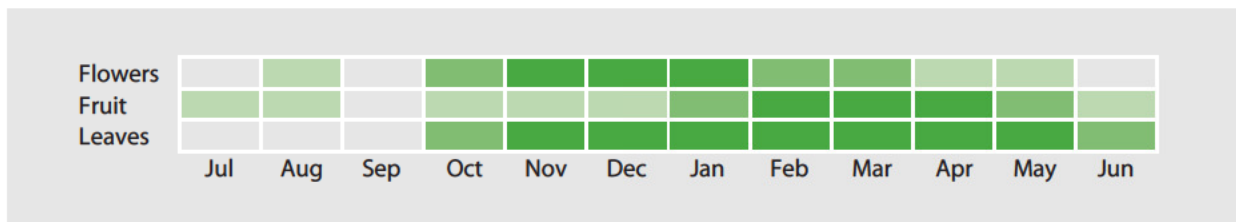
## GROWTH FORM

Usually a shrub in the 1–3-m height class, sometimes over 3 m. May be thicket-forming in places.



## ANNUAL CYCLE

**FLOWERS** mainly October to March, with sporadic flowering in other months. **FRUIT** most of the year, but mainly January to May. **LEAVES** October to June; young leaves recorded intermittently throughout the year.



## GENERAL

Easily colonises disturbed areas. It is heavily browsed by game, including eland, and livestock; warthog dig out the roots. The seeds are roasted and ground as a coffee-substitute; when food is scarce, the roots are roasted and the bark is eaten; children suck out the flowers' nectar. The leaves and seeds are used medicinally. *Bauhinia petersiana*, with its attractive flowers, has horticultural potential for frost-free areas.

## CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.

*Bauhinia petersiana*, flowers, C. Hines

