

Boscia foetida

Noeniebos

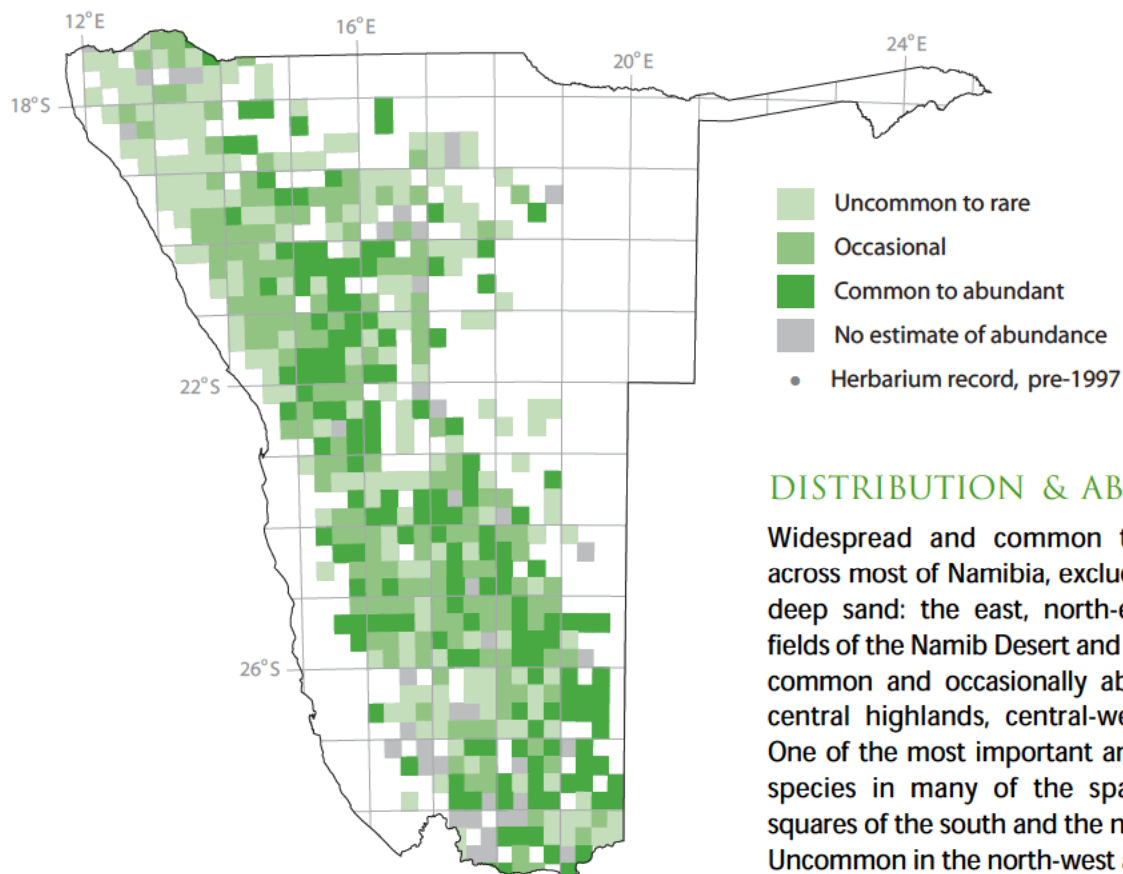
Smelly shepherds-bush (E);
stinkbos (A); Nonibusch (G);
omungundi (H); xaubes (K)

[1,817 records from 555 (52%) squares]



Shrub or tree. BARK **whitish with fissures exposing a rough, dark-coloured bark**; young branchlets **grey with plum-coloured underlayer**. LEAVES **small**, spirally arranged or clustered on dwarf shoots; oblong; both surfaces olive-green; petiole very short. FLOWERS small, green-yellow, with **characteristic unpleasant, foetid odour**. FRUIT round berry, 10 mm in diameter, hairy, yellow to pale brown when ripe.

Flowers and ripe fruit are fairly obvious. When not flowering or fruiting, it may easily be confused with *Maerua parvifolia* and shrubby forms of *B. albitrunca*. Only subspecies *foetida* occurs in Namibia

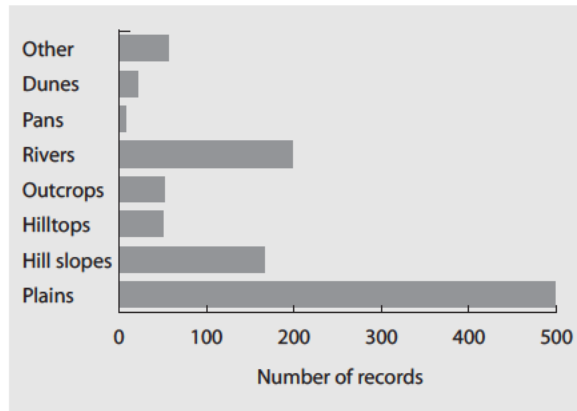


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Widespread and common to uncommon across most of Namibia, excluding areas with deep sand: the east, north-east and dune fields of the Namib Desert and the coast. Most common and occasionally abundant in the central highlands, central-west and south. One of the most important and conspicuous species in many of the sparsely wooded squares of the south and the northern Namib. Uncommon in the north-west and Karstveld.

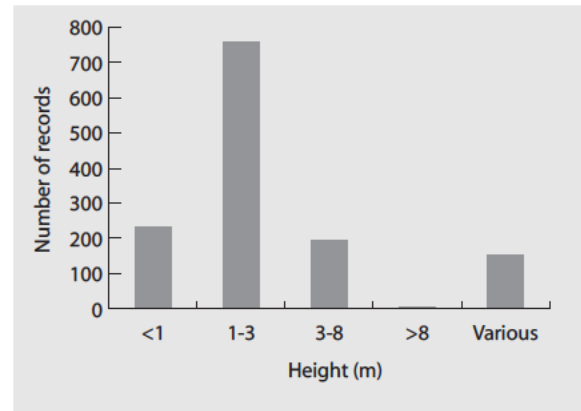
HABITAT

Found in various habitats, but mostly on plains, hill slopes and in dry rivers. Only found on stony, rocky or gravel substrates, never on sand unless there is underlying rock.



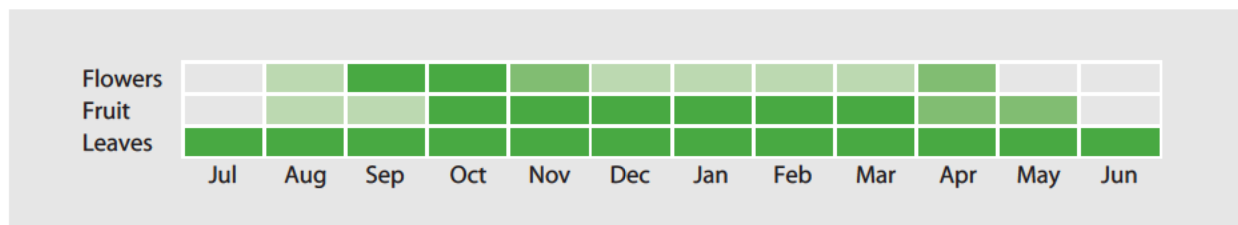
GROWTH FORM

Mostly a shrub (67% of records) up to 3 m high, but also a tree (33%) up to 3 m and sometimes over 3 m.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS August to April, with a peak in September and October and a smaller peak in April; April flowering was recorded in three summers, especially in 2000, and most often in the north- and central-west. **FRUIT** recorded almost all year round, but mostly from October to March. **LEAVES** evergreen.



GENERAL

Leaves are browsed by game and livestock; sometimes the bark is also chewed by animals; Sociable Weavers use the flowers as nesting material and food. The fruit are sweet and eaten by birds and people. The leaves are chewed to relieve stomach-ache.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.

Boscia foetida, Kaokoveld, B. Curtis

