

# *Carissa bispinosa*

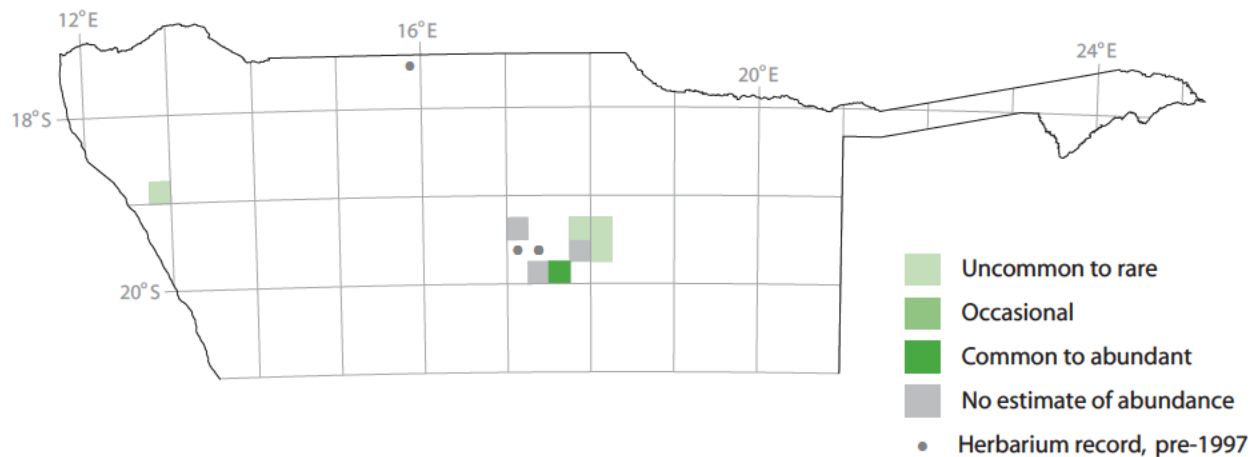
## Y-thorn Carissa

Common num-num (E);  
bosnoemnoem (A)

[31 records from 8 (<1%) squares]

Shrub or small tree. BARK on young branchlets green, hairless. THORNS **paired; each once or twice forked**, green, rigid with sharp tip. LEAVES almost circular to broadly ovate, hairless. FLOWERS **white to pale pink; petals overlapping anti-clockwise**. FRUIT **red when ripe**.

The flowers and fruit are conspicuous. Can be confused with *C. edulis*, but *C. bispinosa* has forked thorns, flower petals that overlap in an anti-clockwise direction and large, red fruit. Only one subspecies, *bispinosa*, occurs in Namibia.



### DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Generally uncommon in a very small area in the eastern Karstveld, but locally abundant along the Omuramba Owambo; one record from Purros Rest Camp in 1812DD (specimens HB4 and HB6, BEC1), reported it to be common on the river bank, but rare on a rocky outcrop. The Purros record is a range extension according to herbarium records, but not according to Coates Palgrave (2002).

### HABITAT

Found on plains, along watercourses and near pans in the Karstveld; grows on calciferous, shallow soils on Farm Hurisib (1917BD; HIL1). Found on river banks and rocky outcrops at Purros.

### GROWTH FORM

A shrub or tree of 1–3 m high, with one record of it clambering.

### ANNUAL CYCLE

TAP records were combined with herbarium records. FLOWERS were reported or collected in November and February. FRUIT were found in January, February and November. LEAVES evergreen.

### GENERAL

Often found together with *Olea europaea* on Farm Hurisib (1917BD). Heavily browsed in places (FRI1). The fruit have a sweet taste.

### CONSERVATION CONCERNS

Rare in Namibia, but probably not threatened; widespread in South Africa.