

# *Combretum platypetalum*

## Kantakaba

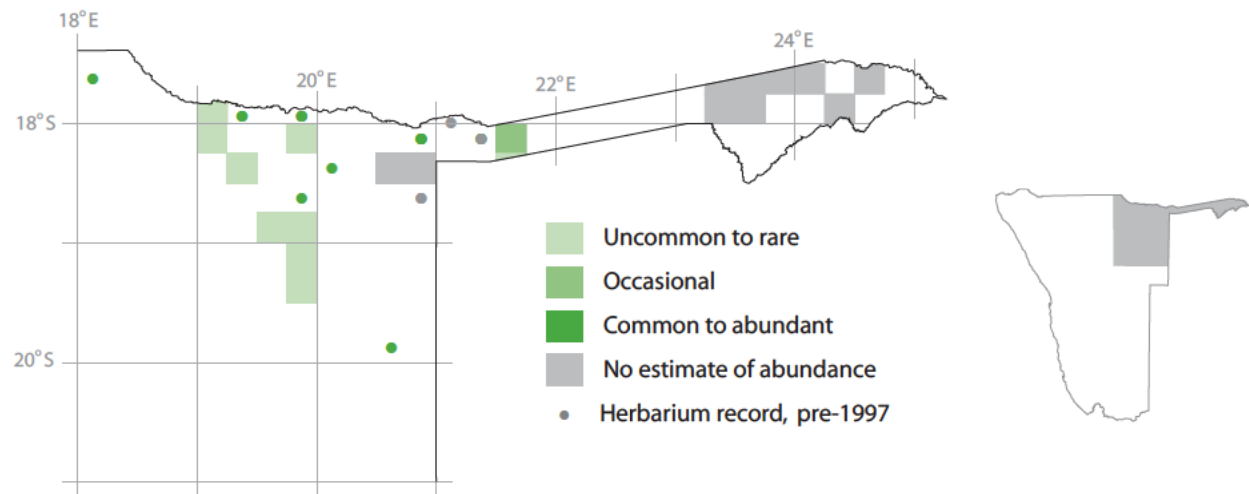
Scarlet combretum (E);  
moluko (Rk, Rum)

[27 records from 18 (2%) squares]



**Sparsely branched shrub with long, straight, slender branches. BARK purplish-grey. LEAVES alternate to sub-opposite, sometimes three-whorled; narrowly lanceolate to broadly elliptic, mostly longitudinally folded; petiole 8–9 mm long, with rust-red covering. FLOWERS conspicuously bright red, appearing before the leaves. FRUIT four-winged; central portion pale brown; wings thin, straw-coloured to pale brown.**

According to herbarium records, there are two subspecies in Namibia, *platypetalum* and *baumii*, but only the former was recorded by the TAP.



## DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Uncommon to occasional along the Okavango River and southwards to the Nyae Nyae area. Locally common in places. Herbarium records show subsp. *baumii* on the outer edges of the species distribution, with subsp. *platypetalum* concentrated around the Andara-Popa Falls area, and along the road to Kaudum (1820).

Was probably overlooked by atlassers as it is usually less than 2 m high and not easy to identify without flowers or pods.

## HABITAT

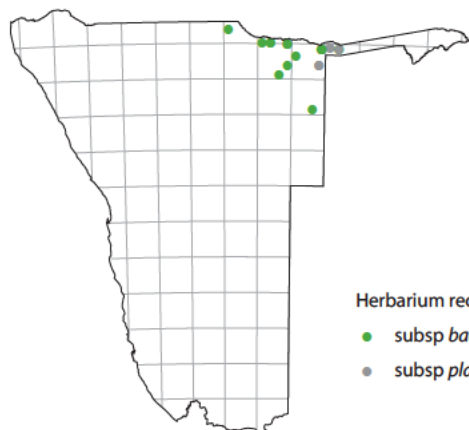
Found on dunes, sandy plains, along omurambas and on floodplains.

## GROWTH FORM

A shrub less than 3 m high.

## ANNUAL CYCLE

Observations in March, May and October, only. FLOWERS August to October. FRUIT March, August and September. LEAVES deciduous, but present in the months of observation.



Herbarium record, pre-1997

● subsp *baumii*

● subsp *platypetalum*

## GENERAL

This plant has horticultural potential. The brilliant red flowers make it the most striking of the Combretaceae in Namibia. It flowers during the dry months while most other plants are still dormant, at which time it can be spotted from far away. The flowers and roots are used during ceremonies and dances. The roots are also used medicinally.

## CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.

# *Pteleopsis myrtifolia*

## Two-winged Stink-bush

[1 record]

Densely leafy shrub or small tree. LEAVES elliptic, shiny green, usually small, with two tiny, yellow dots sometimes visible on upper surface. FLOWERS white to creamy-yellow, unpleasantly scented. FRUIT two- or three-winged, greenish-yellow.

Found on Impalila Island. An uncommon shrub in the 1–3-m height class on river banks; fruit recorded in April. Herbarium records are all from Angola.