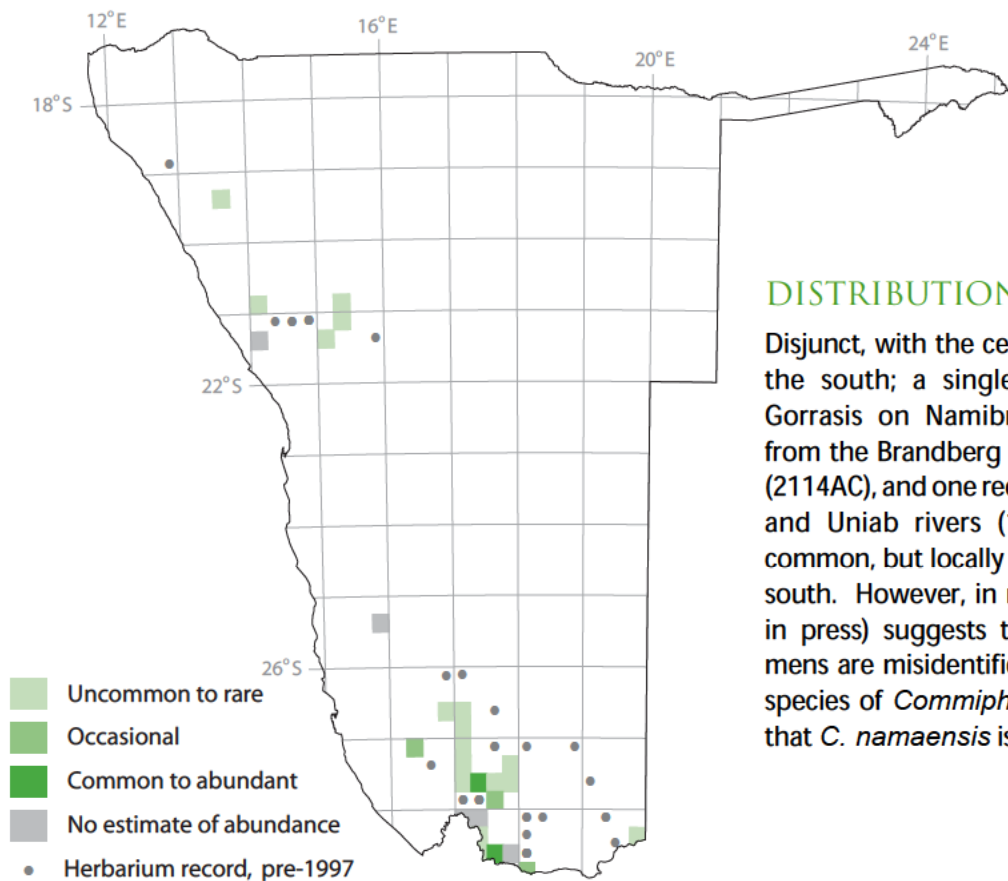
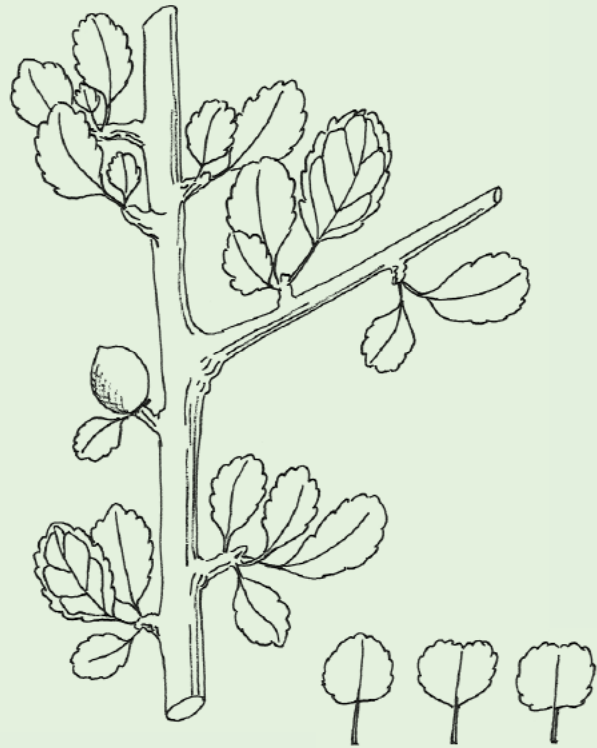


Commiphora namaensis

Nama Corkwood

[35 records from 27 (3%) squares]

Shrub, with **thick, swollen stem branching near the ground** into slender branches; usually less than 1 m high. **BARK** pale to dark grey, **not flaky**. **BRANCHLETS** not spine-tipped. **LEAVES** usually simple, circular to slightly oblong, 5–15 x 4–12 mm; both surfaces olive-green, hairless; margin scalloped to coarsely toothed. **FLOWERS** small and inconspicuous. **FRUIT** pseudaril with two lobes.

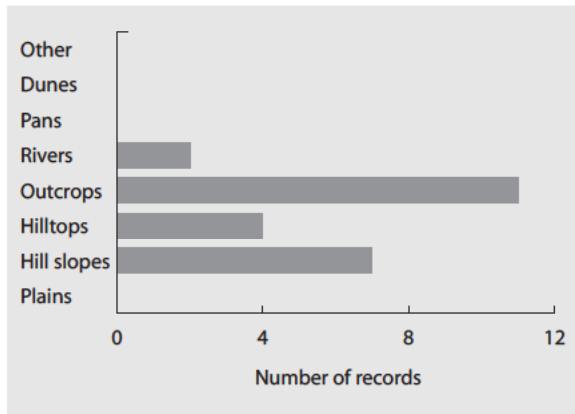


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Disjunct, with the centre of its distribution in the south; a single specimen from Farm Gorrasis on Namibrand (2515BD), records from the Brandberg and Messum Crater area (2114AC), and one record between the Hoanib and Uniab rivers (1913BC). Generally uncommon, but locally common in places in the south. However, in recent work (Swanepoel, in press) suggests that the northern specimens are misidentified *C. dinteri* or the new species of *Commiphora* (see page 262), and that *C. namaensis* is confined to the south.

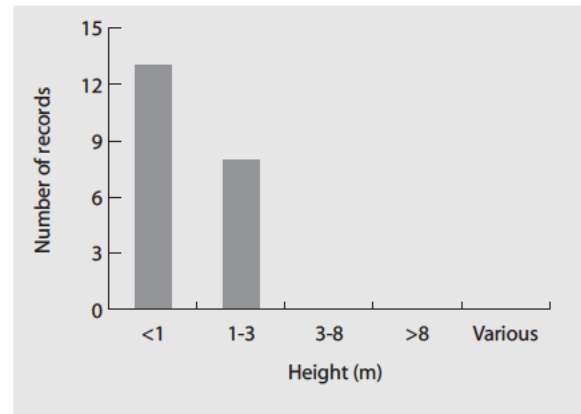
HABITAT

Mostly found on rocky outcrops and hill slopes, but also along dry river courses.



GROWTH FORM

Generally recorded as a shrub of less than 1 m, but occasionally up to 3 m in the south.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS in October and November. FRUIT from February to May, but mostly in May. LEAVES present on some individuals for most of the year.

GENERAL

Caterpillars sometimes defoliate this species. Of horticultural potential as a pachycaul or bonsai subject.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

The decrease in range as compared with earlier herbarium specimens could be of concern, but the species is very localised, and could have been overlooked. Potentially threatened by illegal collecting for the pachycaul trade. Near-endemic.

Commiphora namaensis, near the Orange River, C. Mannheimer

