

Commiphora saxicola

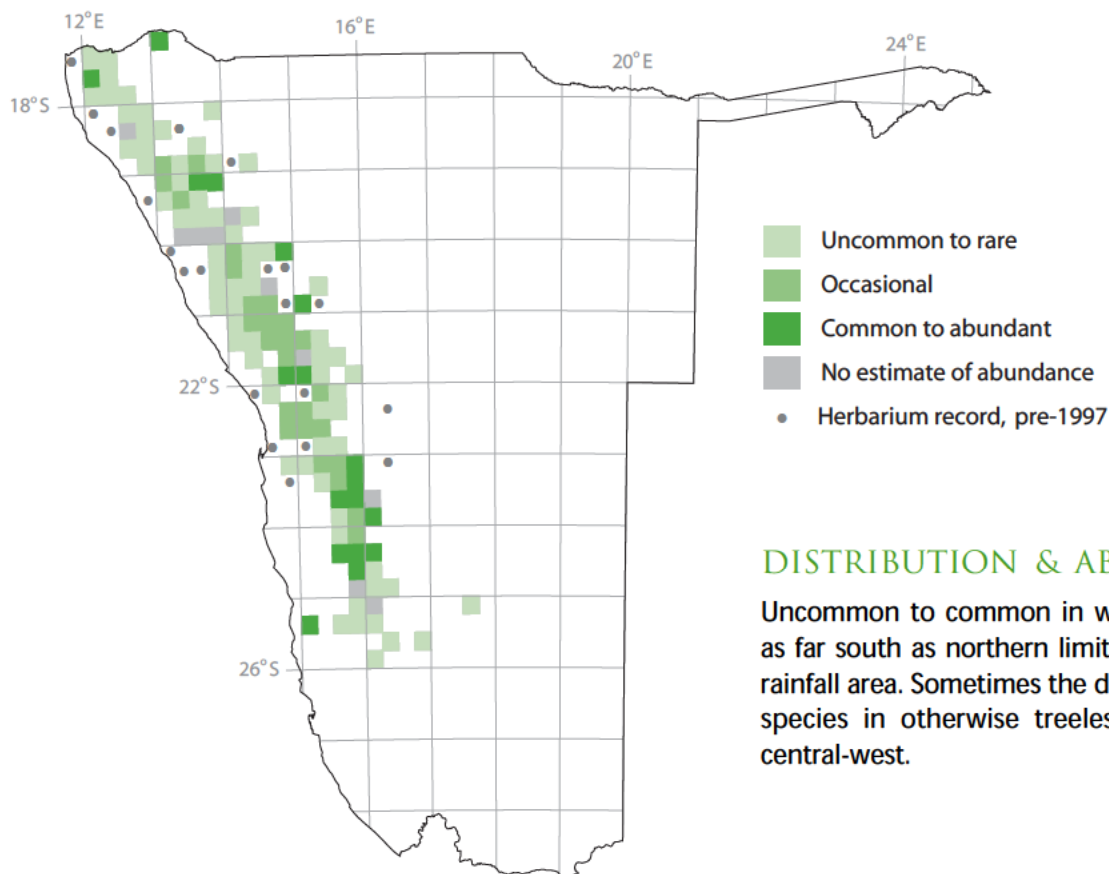
Rock Corkwood

Felsenmyrrhe (G); //gai (K)

[338 records from 125 (12%) squares]



Low-growing shrub with short, swollen stem, or a small, single-stemmed tree. BARK grey, finely speckled, smooth, not flaky. LEAVES compound, spirally arranged or clustered on dwarf shoots, 25–160 mm long; leaflet elliptic, practically circular; both surfaces dark green to yellow-green with a dull, waxy coating above, veins prominent below; often folded upward along the midrib; margin deeply toothed; apex blunt to shallowly notched to pointed. FLOWERS small, pale green to cream-coloured, appearing before the leaves. FRUIT ovoid, up to 10 mm in diameter, with pointed apex.

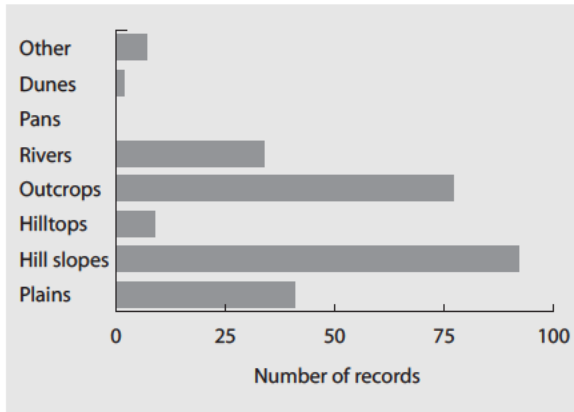


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Uncommon to common in western Namibia as far south as northern limits of the winter-rainfall area. Sometimes the dominant woody species in otherwise treeless areas in the central-west.

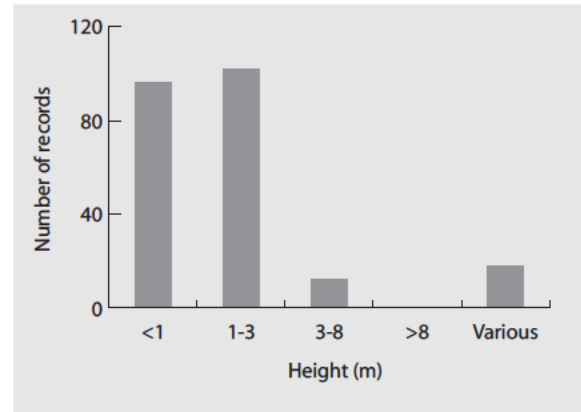
HABITAT

Various, but mainly on rocky outcrops, hill slopes, plains and along dry watercourses. Generally growing on rock, sometimes gravel.



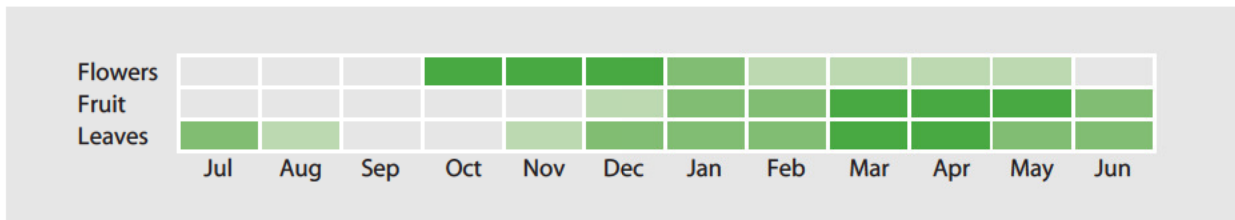
GROWTH FORM

Generally, a fat-stemmed shrub less than 1 m high, but sometimes taller than 1 m. In the north, and occasionally in the central-west, it can become a single-stemmed tree of up to 8 m tall.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS mainly October to December, but have been recorded up till May. FRUIT most often recorded in April, but present from December to June. LEAVES March and April, mainly; individuals with leaves can be seen at almost any time depending on the rainfall the area has received.



GENERAL

Rain-dependent species; sometimes defoliated by caterpillars. Of horticultural potential as pachycaul and bonsai subject.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

Illegal removal for pachycaul trade as a collectors item. Endemic to Namibia.

