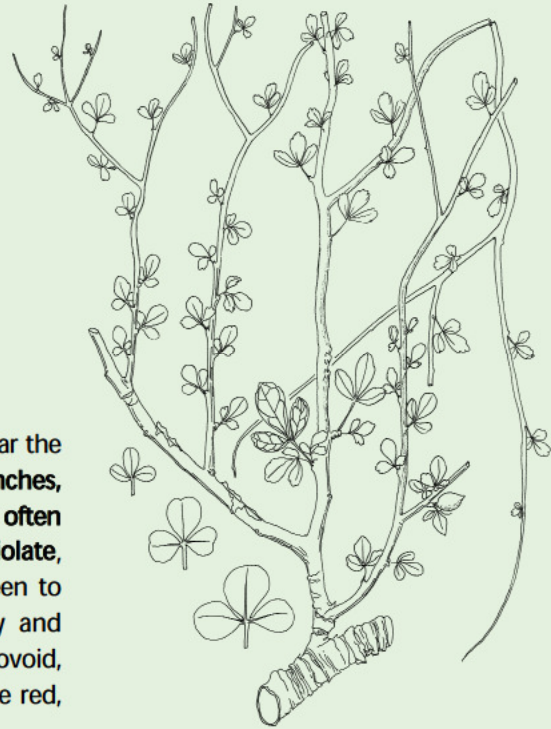


Commiphora virgata

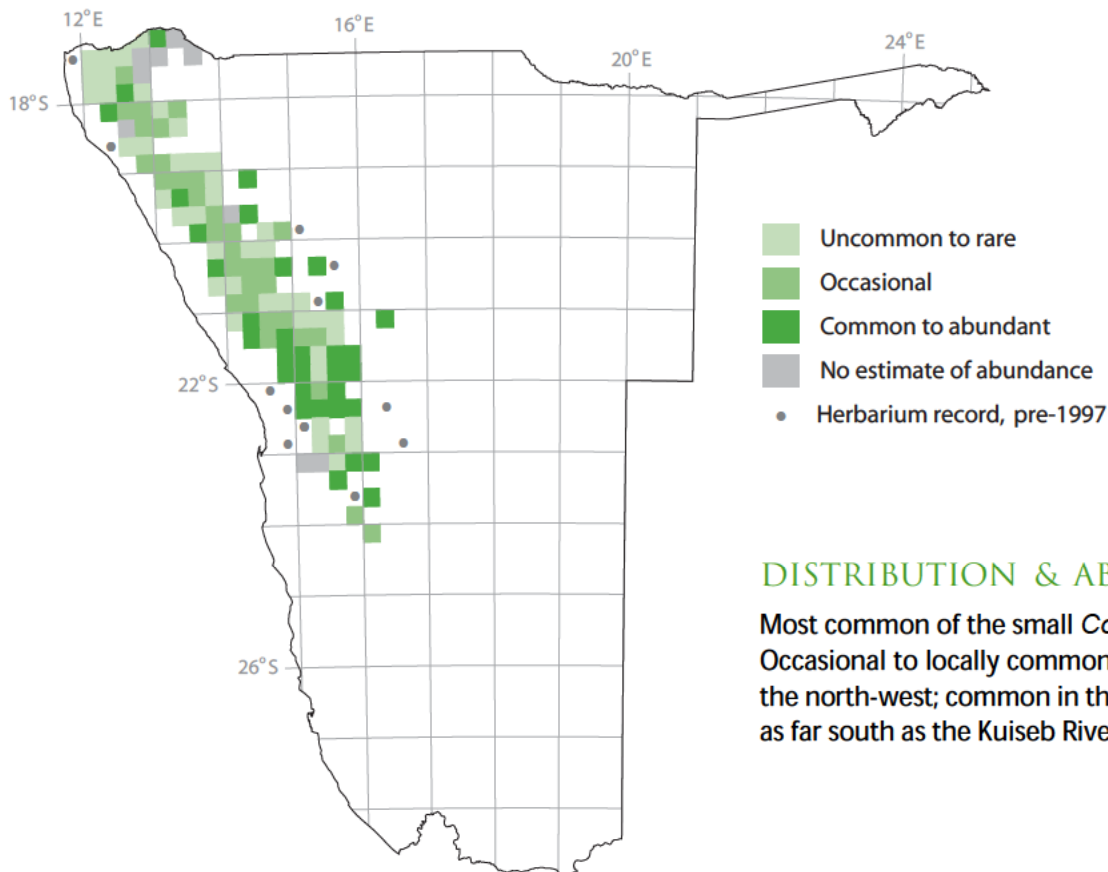
Omumbara

Slender corkwood (E);
slapkanniedood (A); soba (K)

[271 records from 120 (11%) squares]



Much-branched shrub or a shrubby tree branching near the ground. **BARK** yellow-white to silvery on main branches, peeling off in papery strips. **BRANCHLETS** slender and often drooping, older branchlets red-brown. **LEAVES** trifoliolate, leaflet usually obovate, small; both surfaces dark green to green-yellow, hairless; margin entire; petiole lanky and slender. **FLOWERS** small, greenish to green-yellow. **FRUIT** ovoid, up to 10 mm in diameter, red; pseudaril white to pale red, four-lobed with lobes almost covering entire seed.

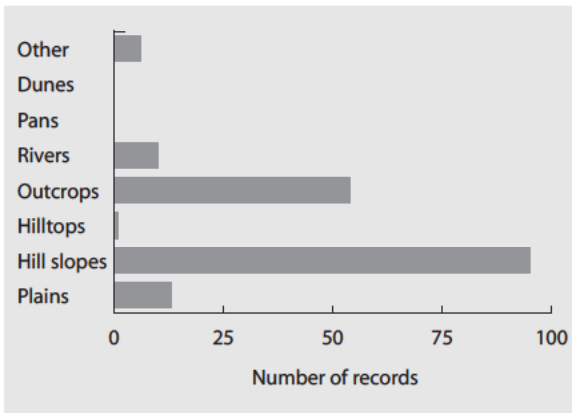


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Most common of the small *Commiphora* spp. Occasional to locally common or abundant in the north-west; common in the central Namib as far south as the Kuiseb River.

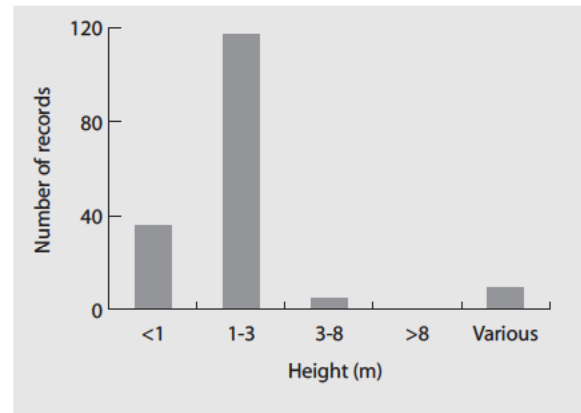
HABITAT

Found mainly on hill slopes and rocky outcrops, on stony, rocky or gravel substrates.



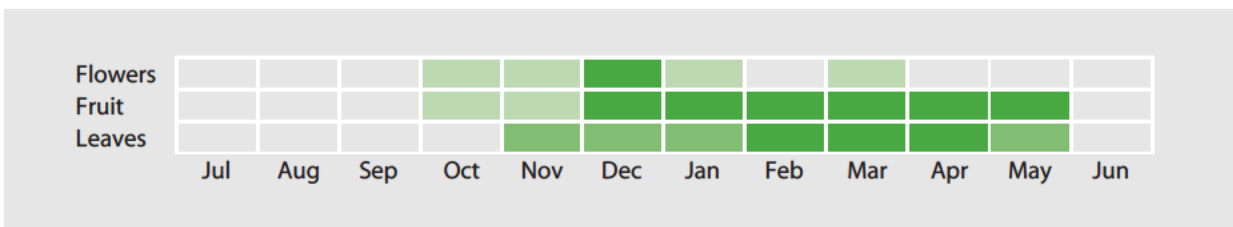
GROWTH FORM

Usually a shrub of less than 3 m high; just south of the Kunene River it is often a tree of over 3 m.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS mostly in December, with occasional records in other months. FRUIT most often recorded in April, but present from October to May. LEAVES present on most plants from February to April, with new leaves produced in November and December.



GENERAL

A pachycaul collector's item, and of horticultural potential as such, and as a bonsai subject.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

Potentially threatened by pachycaul collectors. Endemic.

Commiphora mossambicensis Continued from page 291:

HABITAT

Found on river banks.

GROWTH FORM

Mostly recorded as a shrub in the 1–3-m height class. A tree of 6 m on Impalila Island. A 'really scruffy, clambering shrub' at Lian-shulu Bush Lodge (1823AB, SHA1).

ANNUAL CYCLE

Data only recorded in May, August and November. FLOWERS and FRUIT only recorded in August. LEAVES recorded in May and November, with young leaves in August.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.