

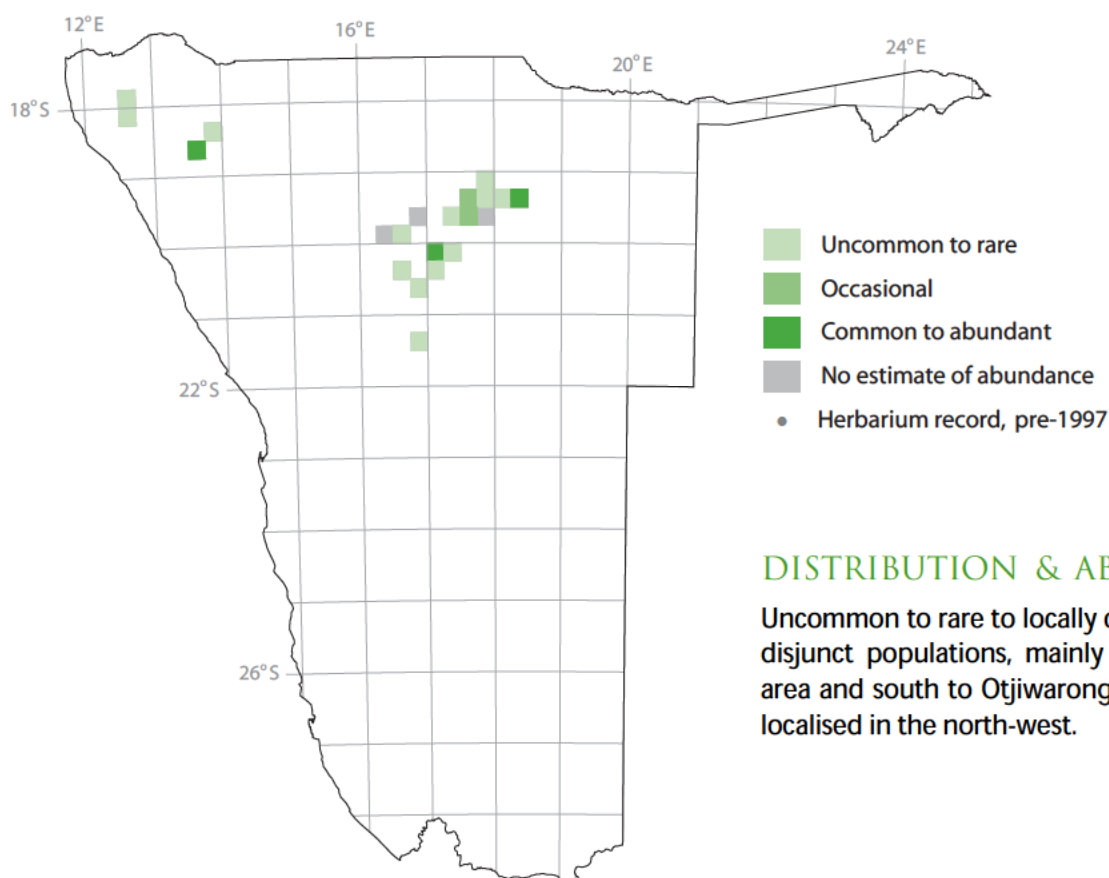
Cyphostemma juttae

Blue Kobas

Kowas (K)

[57 records from 22 (2%) squares]

Deciduous shrub or dwarf tree, with a thick, **swollen stem**. **BARK** pale cream, smooth; peeling in thin, papery pieces to reveal green underbark. **LEAVES** large, succulent, simple and often deeply lobed when young, but becoming trifoliolate with various intermediate stages; **petiole winged** in mature leaves; **blue-green**, with scattered prickles along the midrib below; margin coarsely toothed; base of **lateral leaflets symmetric, running into petiolules**. **INFLORESCENCE** armed with prickles. **FLOWERS** small, yellowish-green. **FRUIT** in clusters of grape-like berries; red to purplish-black when ripe.



DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Uncommon to rare to locally common, in two disjunct populations, mainly in the Tsumeb area and south to Otjiwarongo, but also very localised in the north-west.

GENERAL

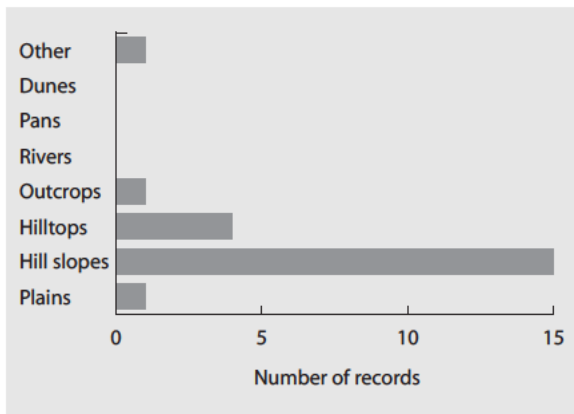
On two occasions an atlasser (ELL1) saw these plants growing as shrubs (<1 m tall) in the holes of live mopane tree trunks (1916DC). This plant is of great horticultural potential for dry gardens as they are appealing and grow easily from seed and cuttings.

CONSERVATION CONCERN

Endemic, with a very small population, and vulnerable to illegal collection for the pachycaul trade. However, recently assessed to be of 'least concern' according to IUCN criteria (Loots 2005). Protected by the Nature Conservation Ordinance.

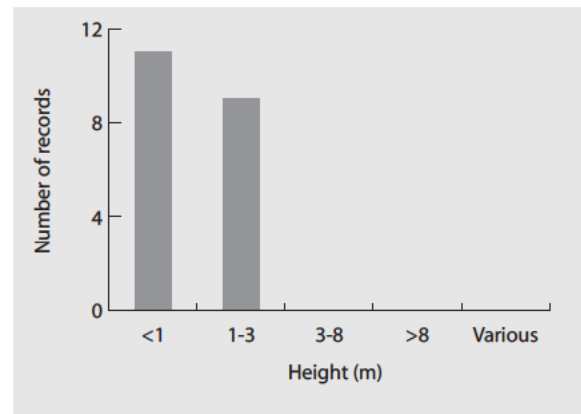
HABITAT

Mostly found on hill slopes and hilltops.



GROWTH FORM

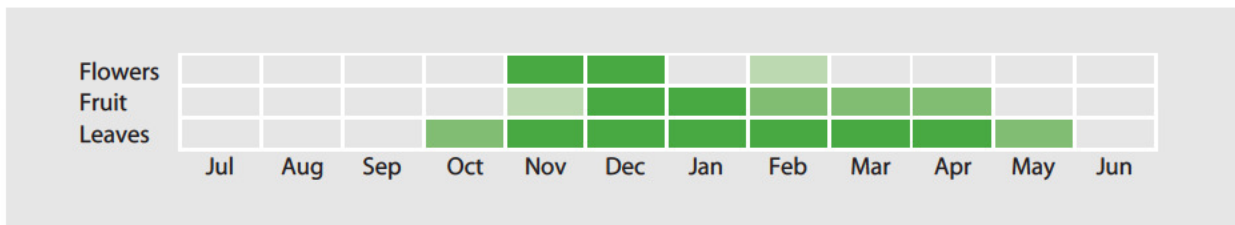
A shrub or dwarf tree less than 3 m tall, but often lower than 1 m.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS November and December, mostly. **FRUIT** November to April, but mainly December and January.

LEAVES November to April, with most plants bare from June to September; new leaves produced in October.



Cyphostemma juttae, Kaokoveld,
A. Cunningham

