

Diospyros ramulosa

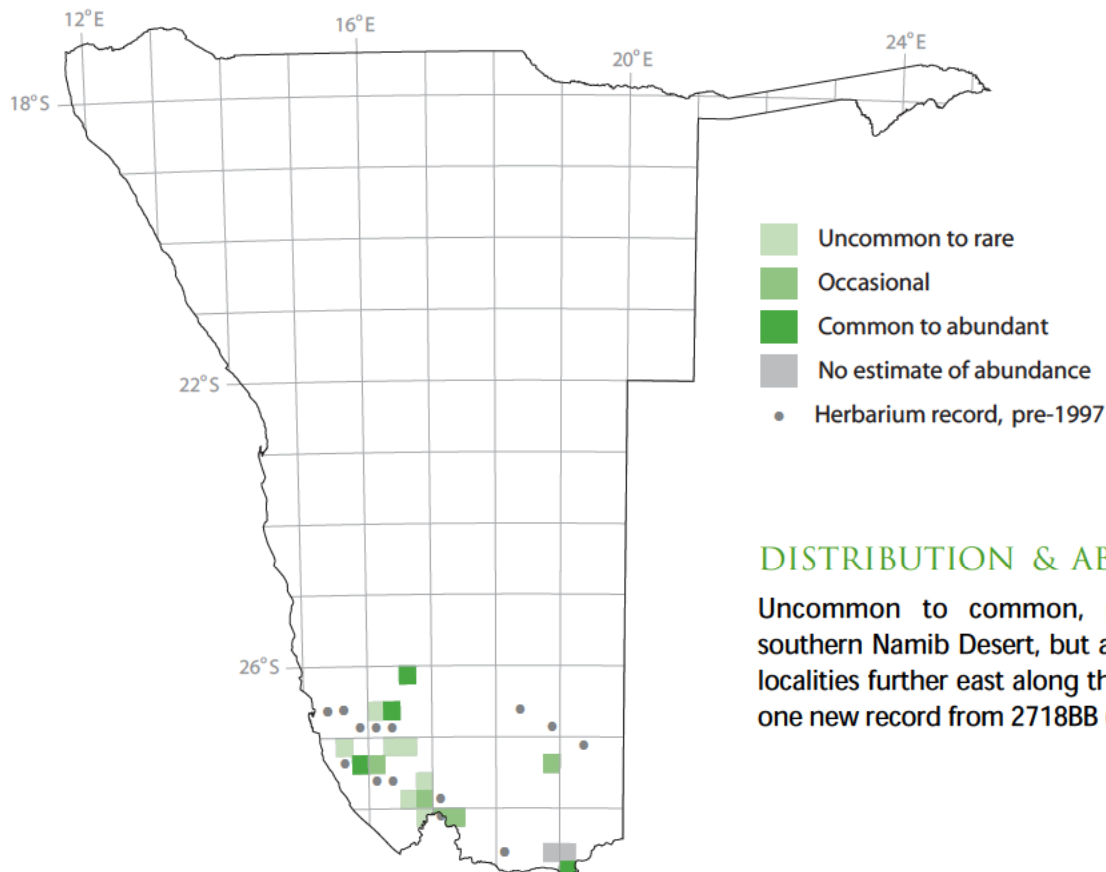
Namaqua Fire-sticks

Small-leaved jackal-berry (E)

[25 records from 18 (2%) squares]



A stiff, evergreen shrub, **with a grey-green appearance**. BARK pale grey to brown, peeling off in fibrous strips. LEAVES simple, **very small**, elliptic to obovate; both surfaces dark green, **silky with red glands below**. FLOWERS small, solitary, greenish-white. FRUIT a small berry, yellow to dark brown, with slightly recurved calyx lobes.

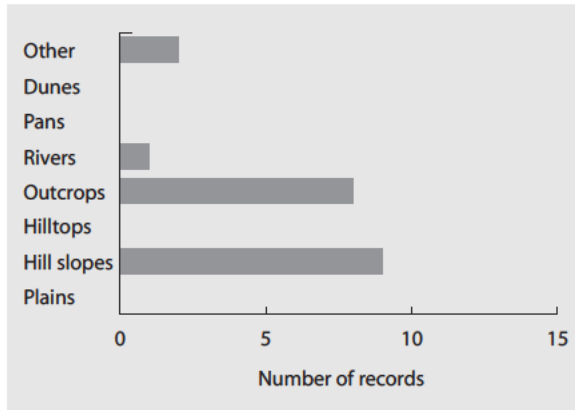


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Uncommon to common, mainly in the southern Namib Desert, but also in scattered localities further east along the Orange River; one new record from 2718BB (MAN1).

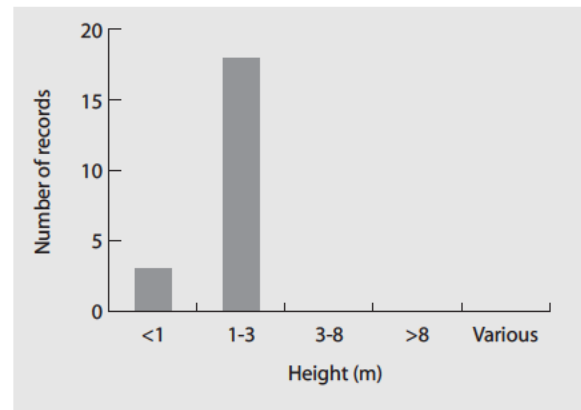
HABITAT

Found on stony or rocky hill slopes and rocky outcrops. According to herbarium records, it is often on, or at the base of, granite outcrops.



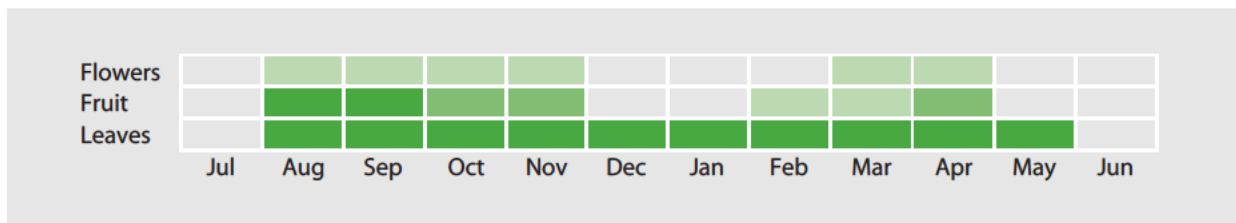
GROWTH FORM

A shrub up to 3 m high.



ANNUAL CYCLE

No observations from May to July. FLOWERS individual records from August to November and March and April. FRUIT most often in August and September. LEAVES recorded for every month of observation.



CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.

EBENACEAE | EBONY FAMILY

This woody family with two genera in southern Africa has few distinguishing features. The leaves are simple, often leathery with entire margins and no stipules. The flowers are small, cup- or urn-shaped, generally with the tips curling back; sexes are on separate plants. The fruit are round berries, which are small in *Euclea*, but larger and edible in *Diospyros*. The five-lobed calyx is persistent in the fruit of *Diospyros*. Commercial ebony is the hard, dark heartwood of various *Diospyros* species. The name *Diospyros* is derived from Greek and means 'heavenly pear', referring to the delicious fruit of many species.