

*Diospyros virgata*

## Tawny Jackal-berry

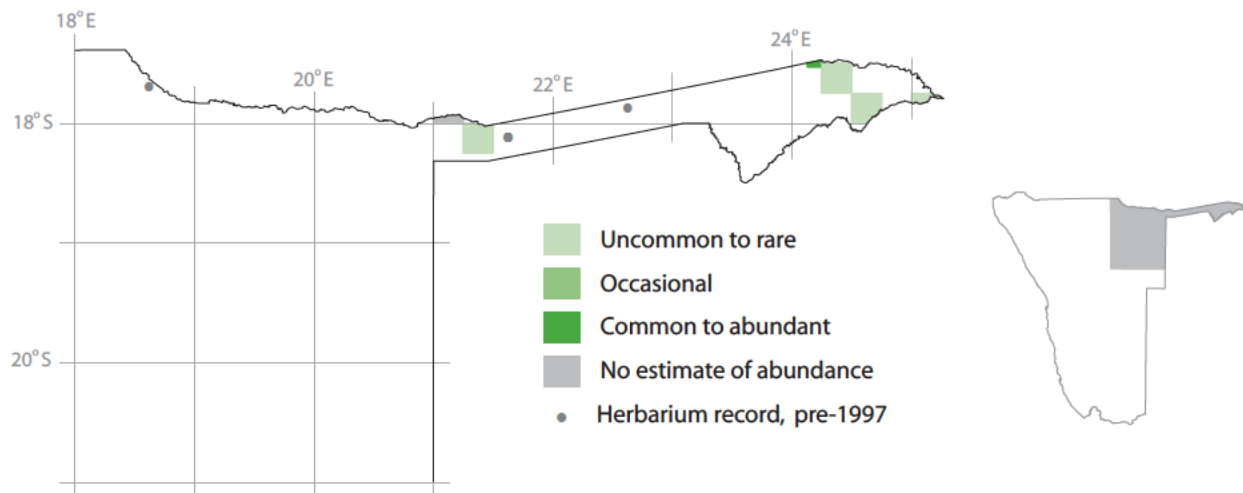
Ghutono (T)

[6 records from 6 (&lt;1%) squares]



Evergreen suffrutex, with long, straight, **slender, soft shoots**. BRANCHLETS with **rust-brown** covering. LEAVES simple, ovate to lanceolate, 25–70 mm long; olive-green, shiny, almost hairless above; covered with **dense, tawny, silky hairs below**. INFLORESCENCE a dense, axillary cluster; **densely downy**. FLOWERS with a calyx up to 5 mm long. FRUIT round, up to 25 mm in diameter; with **dark brown, densely woolly covering**.

Can be confused with *D. chamaethamnus*, which has hairless leaves, and a calyx at least 8 mm long and incised midway, while *D. virgata* has leaves with a yellow-brown, silky covering below and a calyx less than 5 mm long which is incised almost to the base.

**DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE**

Uncommon and only recorded from the Andara-Popa Falls area along the Okavango River, and in eastern Caprivi. There are earlier herbarium records from further west along the Okavango River, western Caprivi and Ruacana.

**HABITAT**

Found on river banks.

**GROWTH FORM**

Mostly a shrub of less than 1 m high, but also a shrub or tree up to 8 m or more.

**ANNUAL CYCLE**

FLOWERS recorded in March, April and June. FRUIT recorded in November and from February to May. LEAVES recorded every month of observation.

**CONSERVATION CONCERNS**

None recorded.