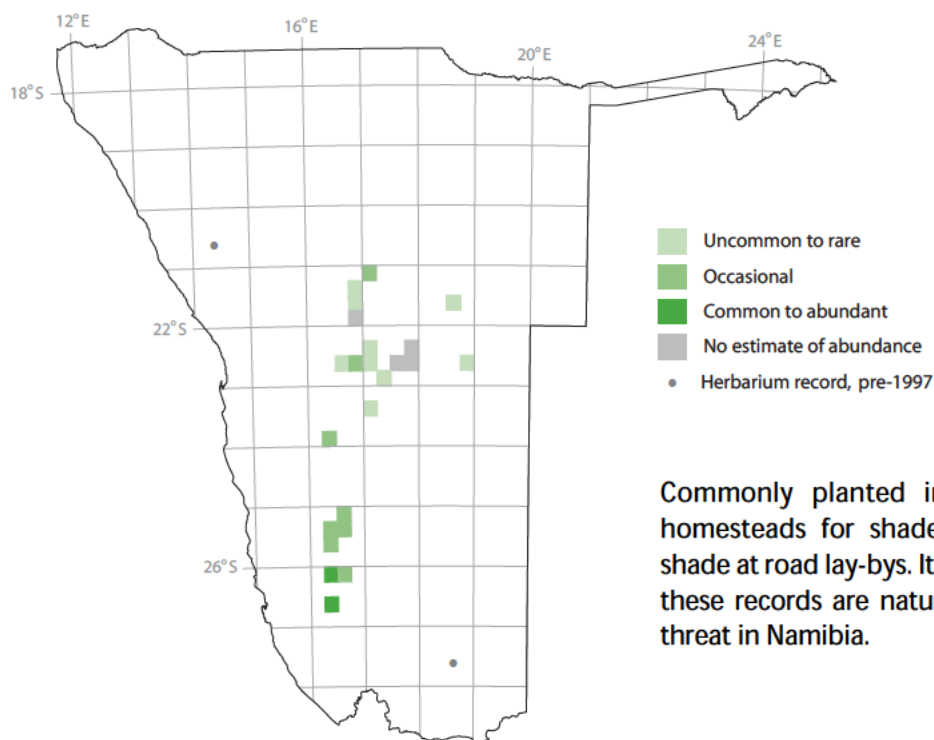


## *Schinus molle* | Pepper Tree

ANACARDIACEAE | Origin: South America | [40 records from 23 squares]

A large tree with slender, drooping branches and rough, fissured bark. LEAVES **drooping, compound**; leaflets narrowly lanceolate, with a **peppery smell when crushed**. FLOWERS small, cream-coloured. FRUIT a small, red berry with papery skin surrounding a black stone.

Can be used as a pepper substitute.



Commonly planted in gardens and around homesteads for shade; has been planted for shade at road lay-bys. It is uncertain how many of these records are naturalised. Not considered a threat in Namibia.

## *Dodonaea viscosa* var. *angustifolia* | Sand Olive

SAPINDACEAE | Origin: South-eastern Africa | [2 records from 2 squares]

Shrub or small tree, usually **multi-stemmed**. LEAVES **narrowly elliptic; sticky and resinous; shiny**, somewhat rough to the touch. FLOWERS small, greenish-yellow. FRUIT a capsule with **two or three membranous, papery wings**.

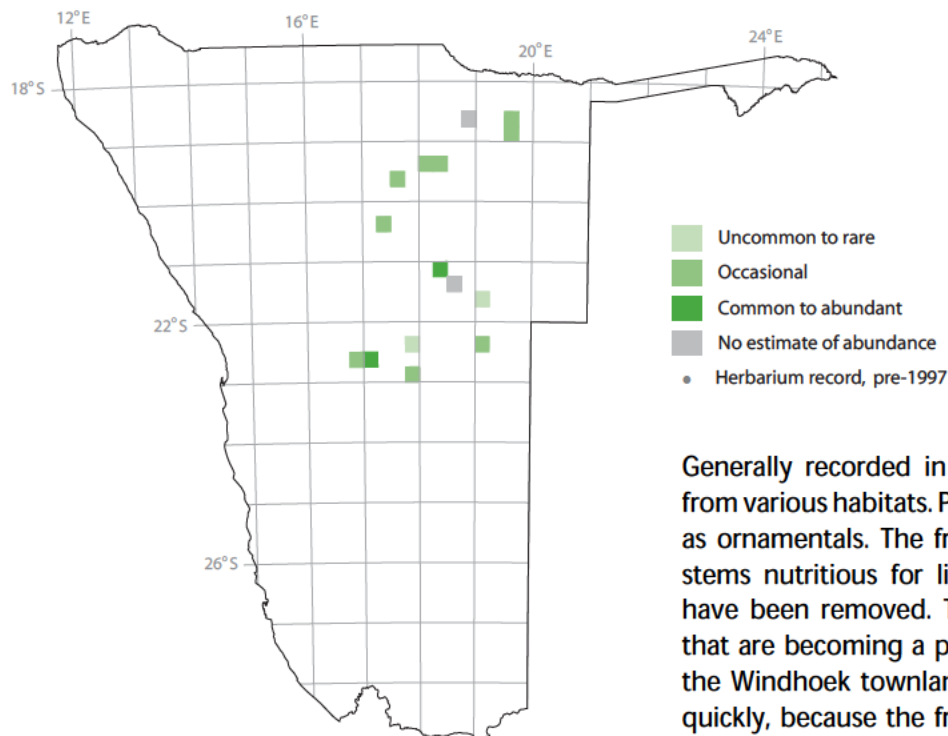
Used to consolidate sandy areas in South Africa. Often planted as hedges.

One record from Otavi area (1917C), one from Grootfontein area (1918CD) and another from Farm Regenstein (2217CA). Probably not a threat in Namibia, but should be monitored.

## *Opuntia* spp. | Spiny Cactus / Prickly-pear

CACTACEAE | Origin: America | [18 records from 15 squares]

**Spiny succulent, generally with broad, flattened, segmented, green stems which resemble leaves. LEAVES absent, replaced by numerous extremely sharp, slender spines. FLOWERS fleshy calyx, with brightly coloured petals. FRUIT ovoid with numerous spines; fleshy, juicy.**



Generally recorded in the 1–3-m height class, from various habitats. Planted for cattle fodder or as ornamentals. The fruit are delicious and the stems nutritious for livestock once the spines have been removed. There are several species that are becoming a problem in public areas in the Windhoek townlands. They proliferate very quickly, because the fruit are eaten by animals, including birds, and the seeds are thus rapidly spread. They also grow vegetatively from sections of stem thrown onto the ground, thus chopping them up does not eradicate them, but rather exacerbates the problem.