

# *Dombeya rotundifolia*

## Wild Pear / Omuryahere

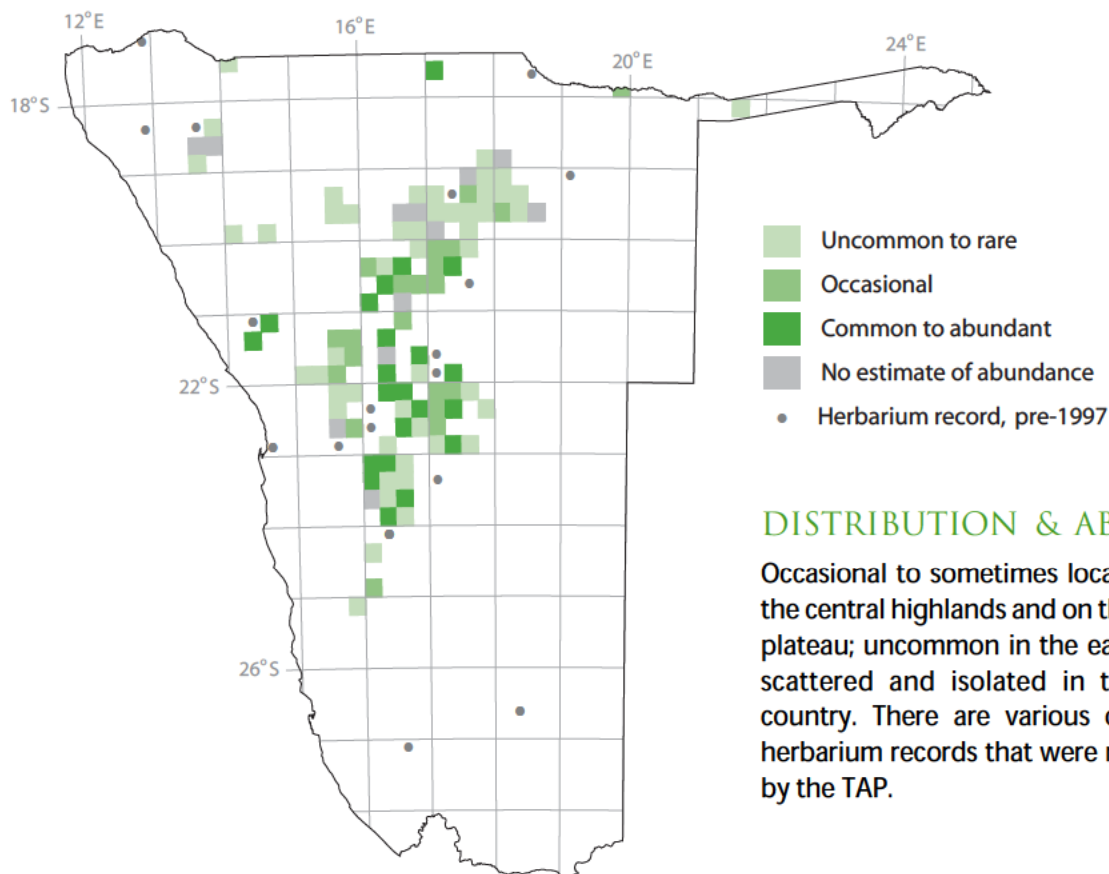
Drolpeer (A); Schneeballstrauch (G)

[320 records from 103 (10%) squares]



Semi-deciduous shrub or many-stemmed tree. LEAVES simple, broadly ovate to **almost round**, 30–150 mm in diameter; **leathery**, pale grey, finely woolly covering, **rough**; veins forming a **characteristic reticulate pattern**. FLOWERS **creamy white**, occasionally pink, **papery**. FRUIT a small, woolly capsule cupped by brown, papery flower remains.

In Namibia there are two varieties, the most widespread of which is var. *rotundifolia*. Variety *velutina* is restricted to a valley in the Naukluft Mountains and is distinguished by the dense covering of stellate hairs on the ovary; it was not recorded by the TAP.

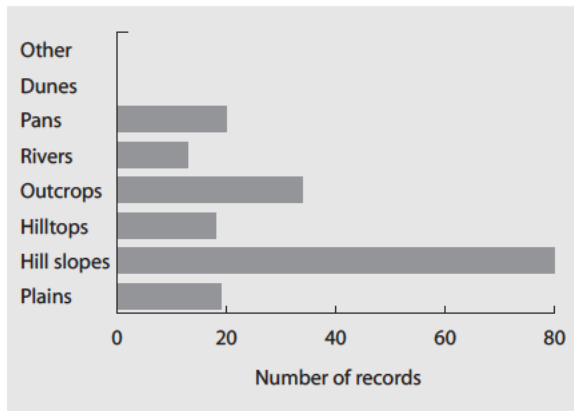


### DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Occasional to sometimes locally abundant in the central highlands and on the north-central plateau; uncommon in the eastern Karstveld; scattered and isolated in the rest of the country. There are various outlying, earlier herbarium records that were not reconfirmed by the TAP.

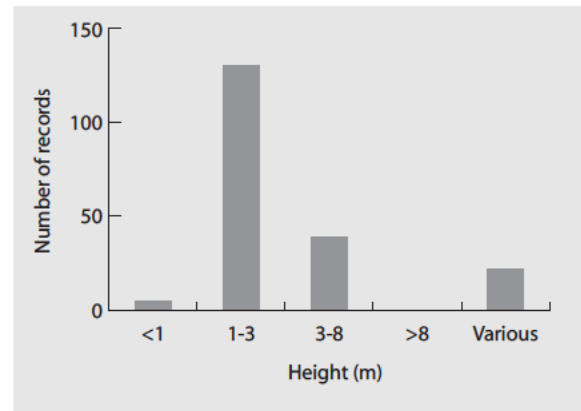
## HABITAT

Found in various habitats, but most often on hill slopes. Also on rocky outcrops in the north-west, on the north-central plateau and in the central highlands; plains in the Karstveld and in kloofs or gorges. Always on rocky substrates including mica schist, granite, dolomite and calcrete.



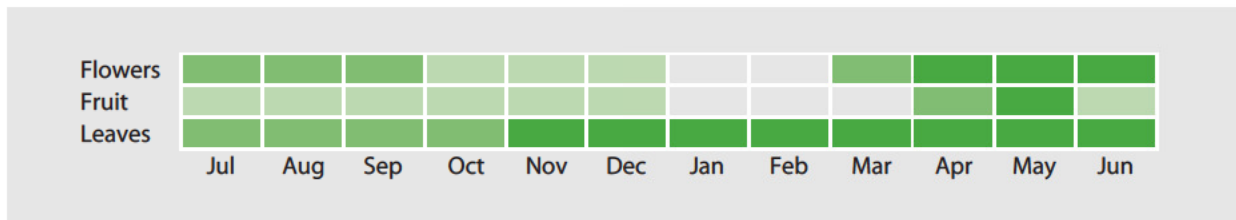
## GROWTH FORM

Generally a shrub up to 3 m high, sometimes a shrubby tree over 3 m.



## ANNUAL CYCLE

**FLOWERS** March to September, tailing off to December, with a peak from April to June. **FRUIT** April to December, with a peak in April and May. **LEAVES** all year round, but mostly November to June, with young leaves August to November. There were no TAP records of var. *velutina*, but from the few herbarium records, flowers appear in October and November.



## GENERAL

Leaves are browsed by game and livestock; the fruit is edible. The dried wood is termite resistant. This is a popular garden plant.

## CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded. Variety *velutina* is endemic and classified as 'least concern' (Craven & Loots 2002).

*Dombeya rotundifolia*, leaves and flowers,  
C. Mannheimer

