

Entada arenaria

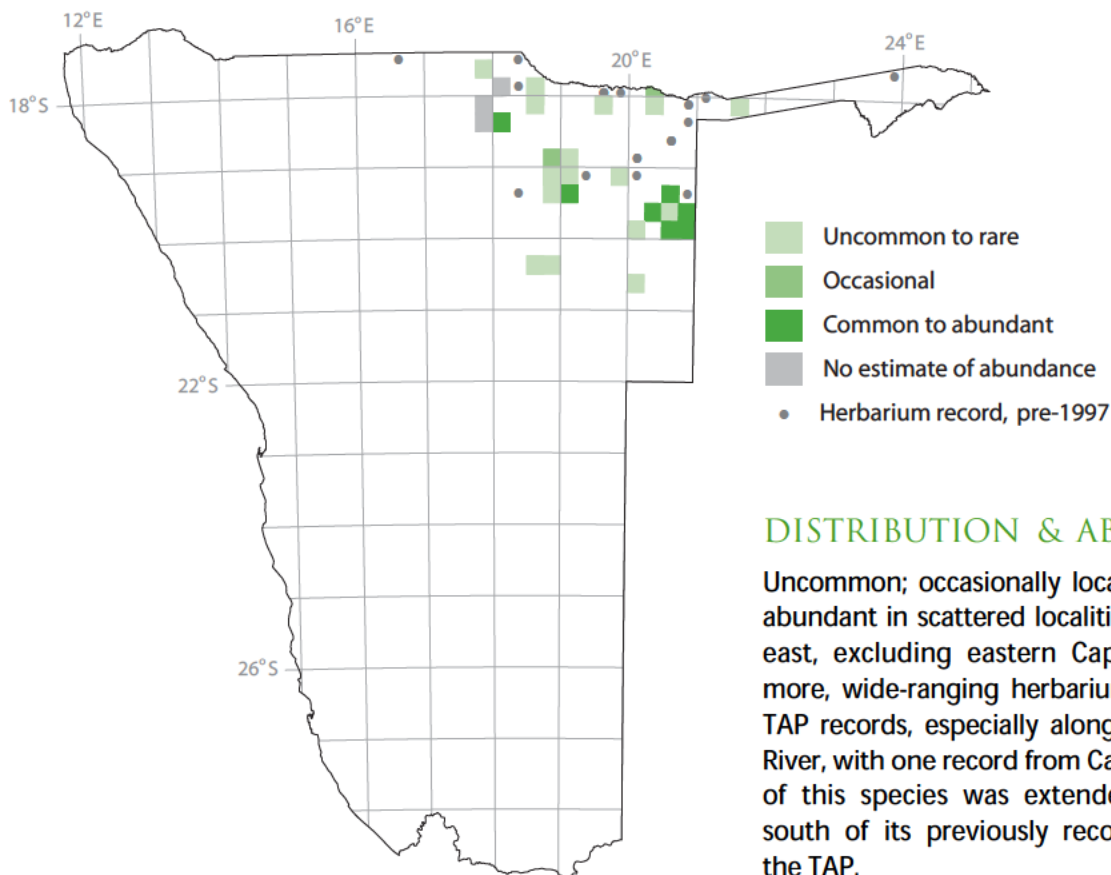
Mukambakamba

Sand entada (E); n/oan (J); /'E (Kx);
ohelelanhenya (Ok)

[33 records from 27 (3%) squares]

A **suffrutex** with annual stems. LEAVES with **large, oblong, very asymmetric leaflets**; one side of the base rounded to cordate, the other **wedge-shaped**; **apex indented**. FLOWERS pale yellowish-white, in spikes. FRUIT a **long, broad pod**; straight, curved or sickle-shaped, leathery; **the walls splitting across into one-seeded segments and the thickened outer margins remaining on the plant**.

Pods and flowers are conspicuous. May be confused with young *Albizia antunesiana*, but the leaflets of the latter are far more ovate, with a more tapering tip.

**DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE**

Uncommon; occasionally locally common to abundant in scattered localities in the north-east, excluding eastern Caprivi. There are more, wide-ranging herbarium records than TAP records, especially along the Okavango River, with one record from Caprivi. The range of this species was extended one degree south of its previously recorded range by the TAP.

HABITAT

Deep, sandy plains and dunes in woodland.

GROWTH FORM

Shrub (suffrutex) less than 1m high.

ANNUAL CYCLE

Few records; no observations from June to November. FLOWERS December. FRUIT January to May. LEAVES reported December to May.

GENERAL

The seeds of this plant are used ornamentally; root fibres are used ornamentally or for making nets for carrying goods. Various parts of the plant are used medicinally.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

The lack of reporting of this species in areas in which it has previously been recorded could be a result of a die-out of the species in that area. However, it is more likely due to the fact that it was overlooked, being generally less than one metre in height and seldom common.

Entada arenaria, leaf and pod, C. Mannheimer

