

# *Erythrophleum africanum*

## Mupako

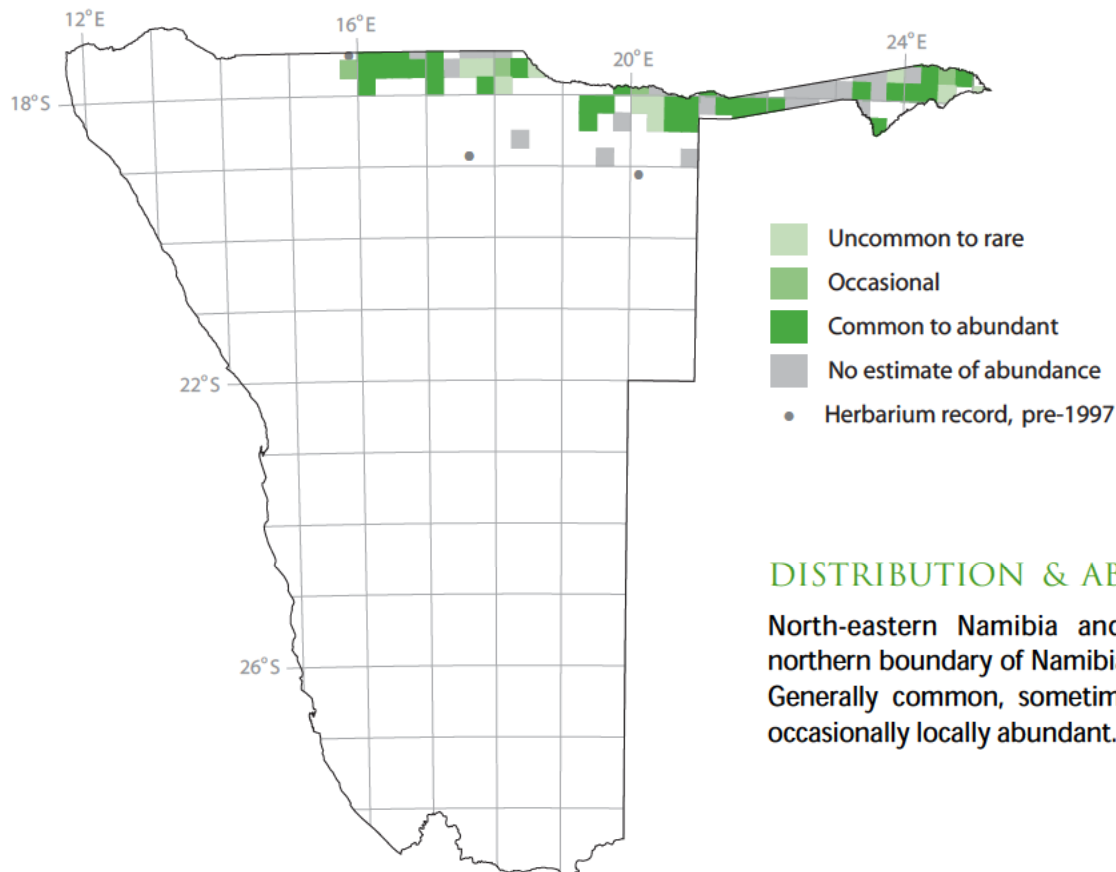
Ordeal tree (E); ambokiaat (A); qarati (Kx); mubako (L)

[110 records from 73 (7%) squares]



Medium to large deciduous tree. LEAVES bipinnately compound; **2–4 pinna pairs with round glands on rachis at base**; 8–14 alternate, green leaflets with **apex shallowly notched to blunt to broadly tapering**. FLOWERS in dense spikes, 35–100 mm long; small, fragrant, yellow-green or cream flowers. FRUIT a straight, flat, brown, leathery pod, **splitting along both sides**.

Flowers and ripe pods are conspicuous; green pods may be overlooked. This species may be confused with *Burkea africana*, but has green leaflets that are smaller than the grey-green leaflets of the latter, and that are green rather than grey-green. It lacks the velvety brown covering on young branches and new growth which is characteristic of *Burkea africana*.

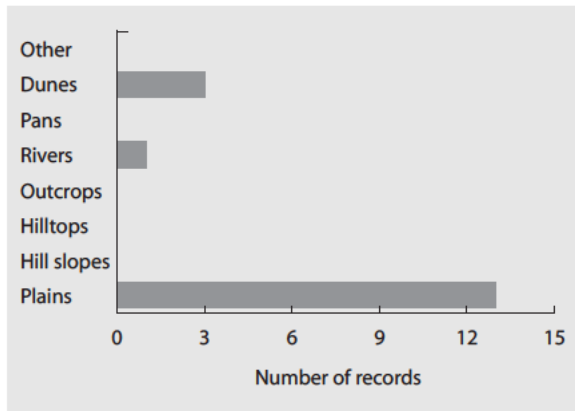


### DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

North-eastern Namibia and the extreme northern boundary of Namibia as far as 16° E. Generally common, sometimes uncommon, occasionally locally abundant.

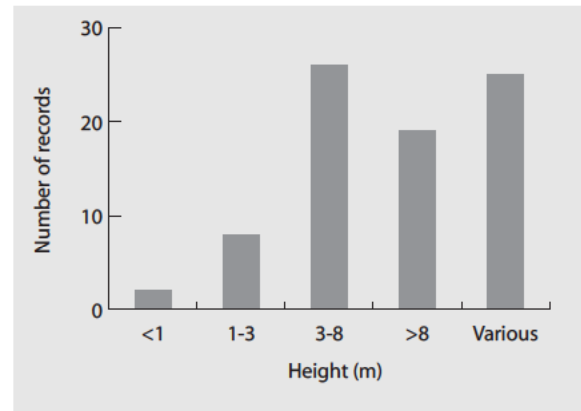
## HABITAT

Plains and low dunes, as well as floodplains, in riverine forest and mixed woodlands.



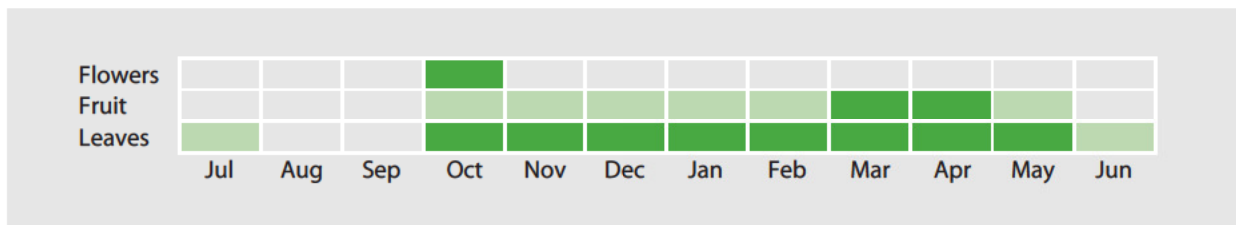
## GROWTH FORM

A tree of over 8 m in height, with a lot of young growth of various heights in most localities.



## ANNUAL CYCLE

Few data for June to September. FLOWERS one record in October. FRUIT present from October to May, but mostly in March and April. LEAVES October to May, with young leaves October and November.



## GENERAL

The wood is used to make furniture. The bark, roots and leaves are poisonous according to some literature; other sources report that the leaves are used medicinally.

## CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.

*Erythrophleum africanum*, tree, B. Curtis

