

Euclea divinorum

Magic Guarri

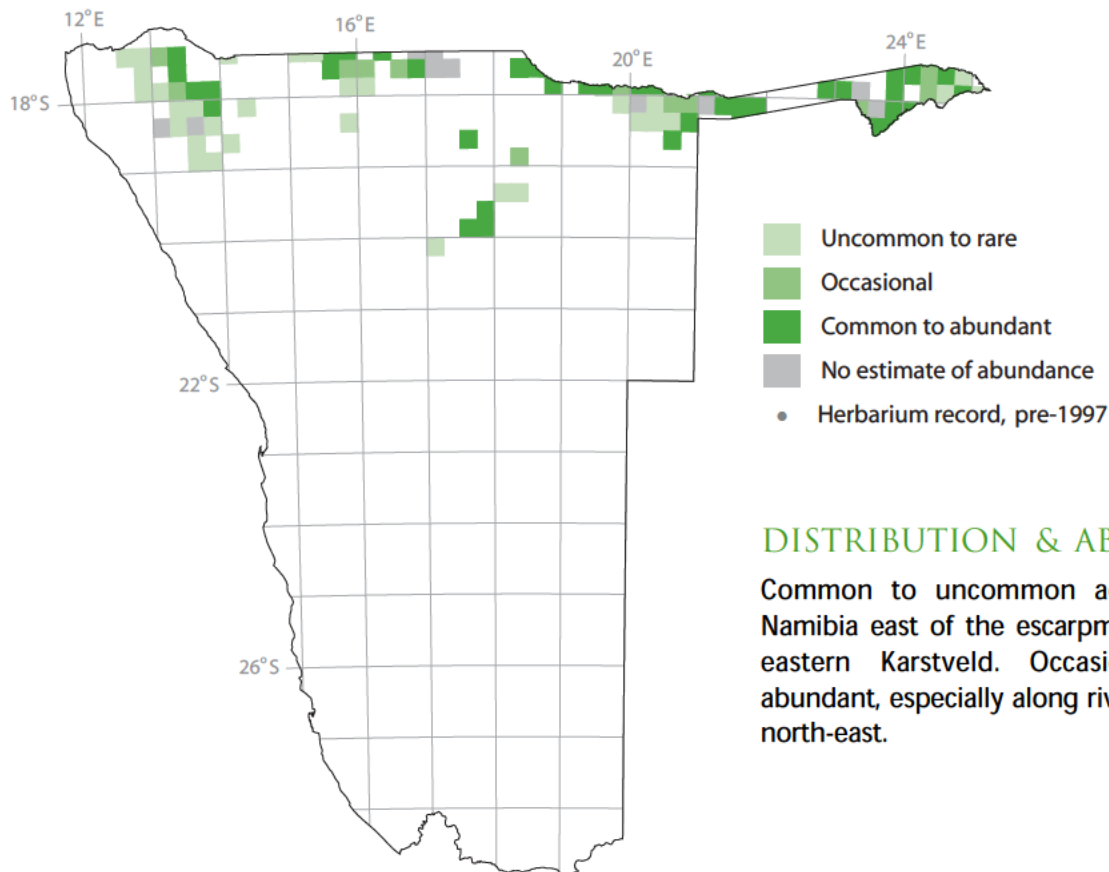
Towerghwarrie (A); mutakula (L);
mpumutwi (Rk, Rum)

[172 records from 99 (9%) squares]



Evergreen shrub. LEAVES narrowly elliptic to lanceolate, up to 80 mm long; dark green above, shiny, leathery; paler below; margin **conspicuously undulate**. FLOWERS cream-coloured to white in **clusters**. FRUIT 5–6 mm in diameter; olive-green with fine down.

The flowers and fruit may be easily overlooked. Can be confused with *E. undulata*, which generally has a more southerly distribution and shorter, narrower leaves with a red-brown appearance.

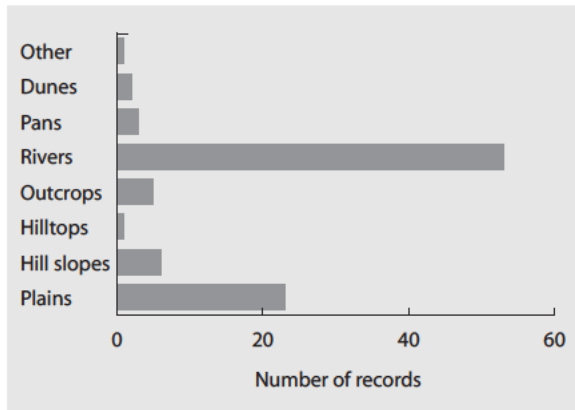


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Common to uncommon across northern Namibia east of the escarpment and in the eastern Karstveld. Occasionally, locally abundant, especially along river banks in the north-east.

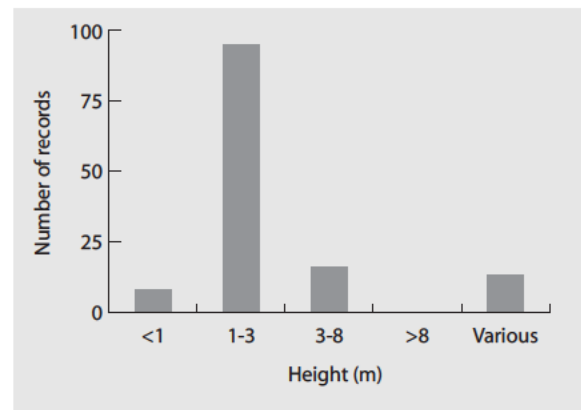
HABITAT

Found in various habitats, but mainly along rivers in the north-west and north-east, and on plains and in oshanas in the Cuvelai. Grows within riverine forest, woodland and shrubland; always on sand or sandy loam.



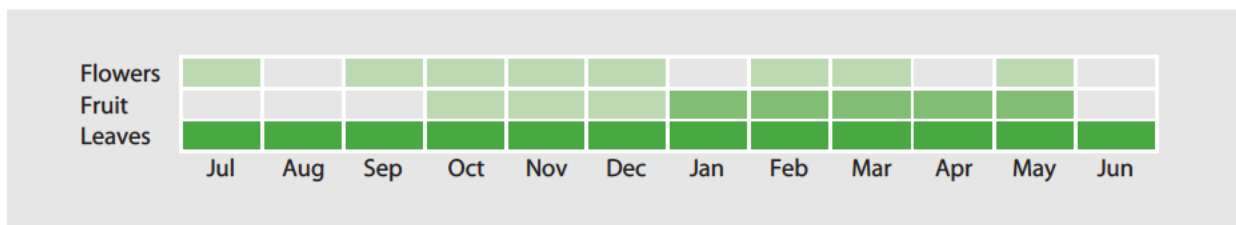
GROWTH FORM

Generally a shrub up to 3 m high, but sometimes over 3 m; seldom a tree.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS a few recorded most months of the year, or on individual shrubs. FRUIT October to May, but never prolific. LEAVES evergreen.



GENERAL

The fruit and bark are used to produce dyes and inks, notably by the Kxoe. The bark also has a high potential for tanning. The fruit is edible, but not palatable and slightly purgative; it is used to make an alcoholic beverage. The wood is used for construction and making knobkerries. The roots are used medicinally. The twigs and root bark are chewed as a tooth and mouth cleanser.

This shrub is regarded as a holy tree in the north-west; and it is taboo to use the wood for fire in kraals.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.