

Euclea pseudebenus

Wild Ebony

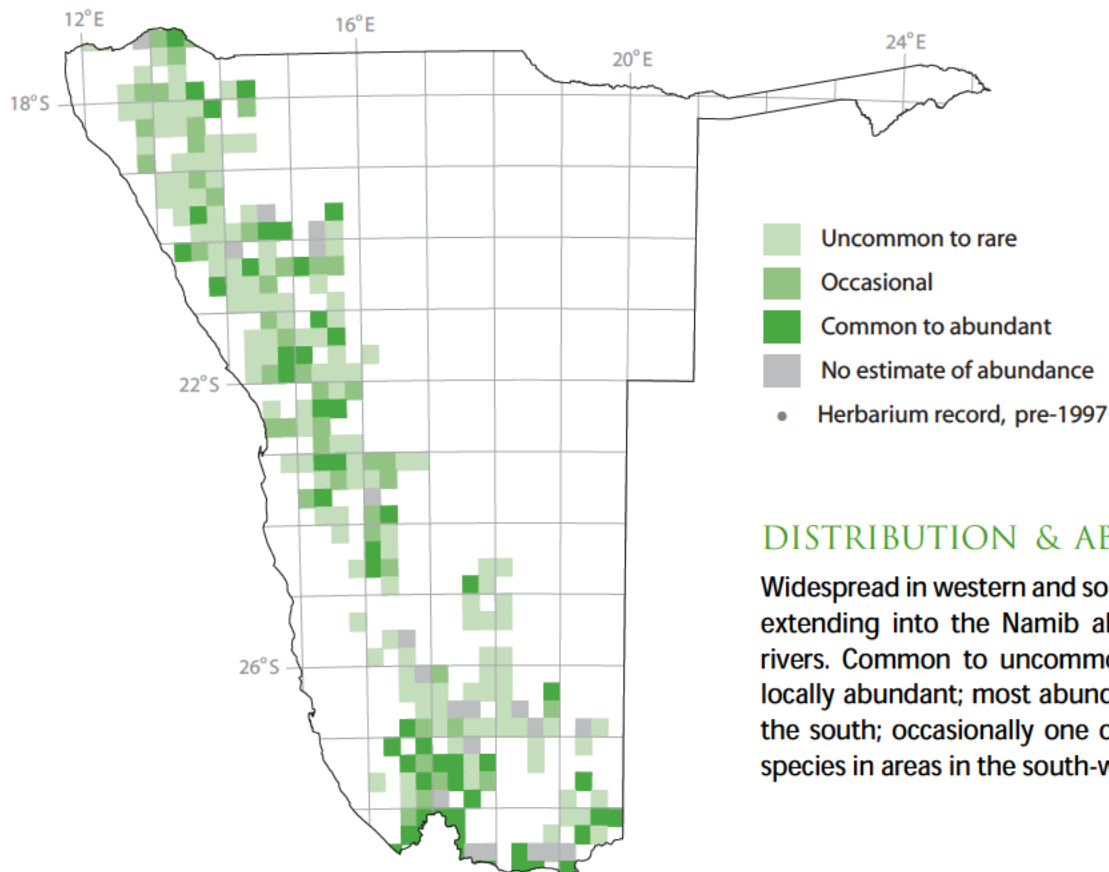
Abikwa, swartebbe (A); Ebenholzbaum (G); omuzema (H); tsabi (K)

[606 records from 256 (24%) squares]



Evergreen tree or shrub with **characteristically thin, drooping branches**. BARK grey to black-grey, very rough, deeply fissured with oblong fragments. LEAVES linear, leathery; blue-green above, pale olive-green below; petiole very short. FLOWERS small, yellow-green. FRUIT **6–7 mm in diameter; red to dark brown to black when ripe**.

Flowers and young fruit may be easily overlooked. Superficially, this plant can be confused with the alien pepper tree, *Schinus molle*.

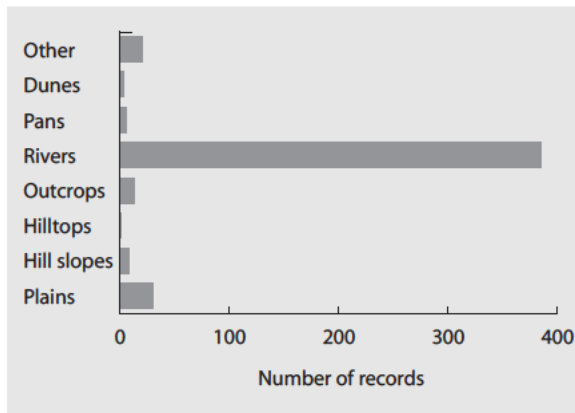


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Widespread in western and southern Namibia, extending into the Namib along ephemeral rivers. Common to uncommon, occasionally locally abundant; most abundant in places in the south; occasionally one of the dominant species in areas in the south-west.

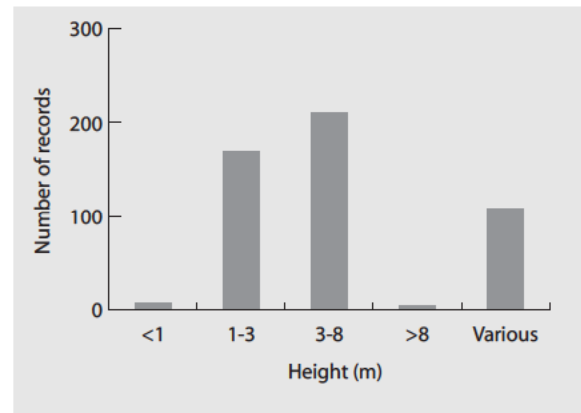
HABITAT

Generally found along dry rivers; sometimes on plains and floodplains or around pans.



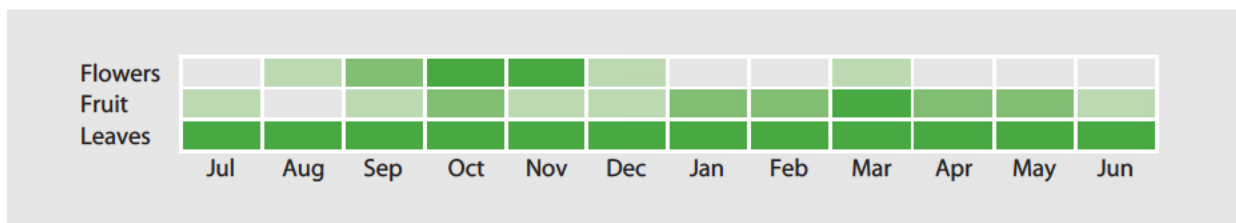
GROWTH FORM

Generally a tree up to 8 m high, seldom higher; very often shrubby. Plants with a mix of heights are found in most areas.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS August to December, but mostly October, with some flowers produced in March in some years.
FRUIT old fruit may be found almost all year, but most are produced in October and from January to May.
LEAVES evergreen, with young leaves produced in October.



GENERAL

The wood is hard, with black heartwood, and is used for construction and carving. The fruit is edible; the twigs are used as toothbrushes. This is a good garden plant as it grows quickly, is frost-resistant, evergreen and attractive.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded. Protected by forestry legislation.

Euclea pseudebenus, Karas Region,
C. Mannheimer

