

Euclea undulata

Common Guarri

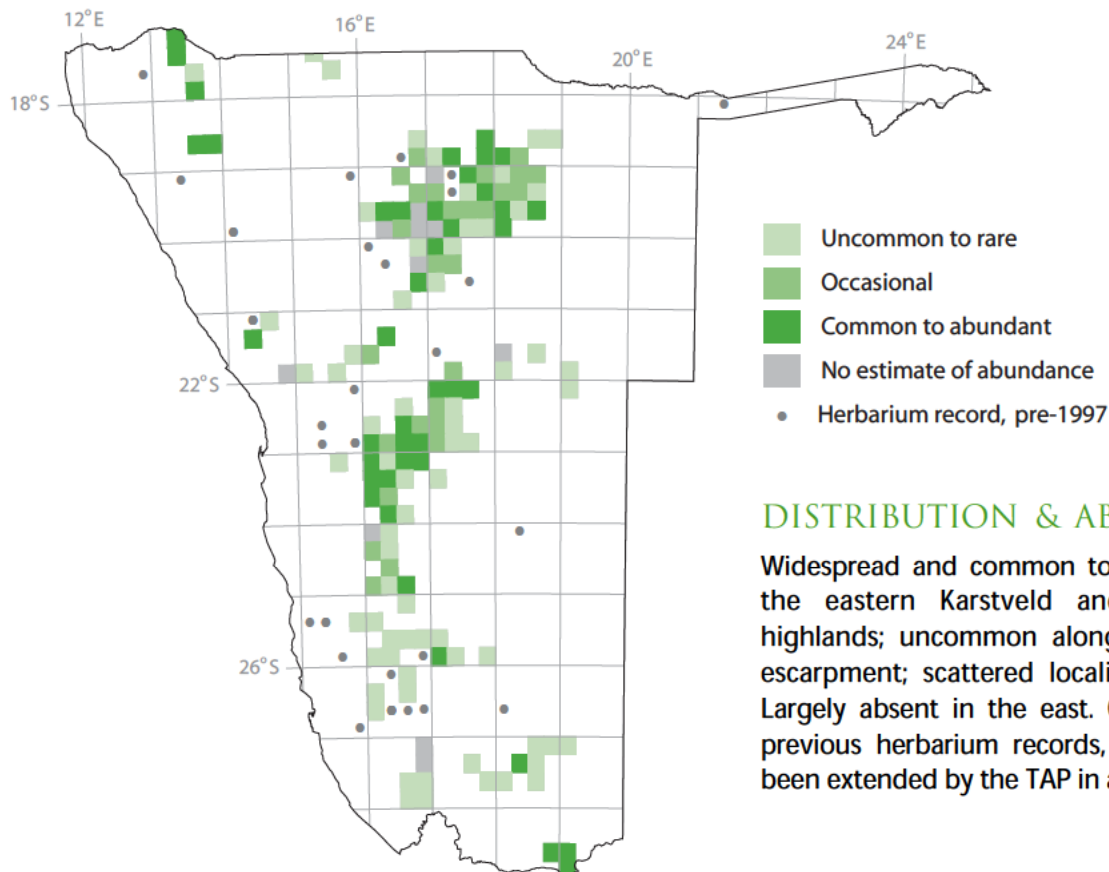
Mountain ebony (E); besembos (A);
Feuerlöschbusch,
Bergebenholzstrauch (G);
omukarambandje (H); #haub (K)

[466 records from 149 (14%) squares]



Erect shrub or tree. BRANCHLETS with rust-red scale-like hairs when young. LEAVES linear-lanceolate to oblong-elliptic, up to 50 mm long, leathery; yellow-green to dark green, with a **characteristic red-brown appearance due to many scale-like hairs**; margin usually undulate. FLOWERS cream-coloured to white, **single**. FRUIT **spherical, 5–8 mm in diameter; shiny, green-brown to black when ripe**.

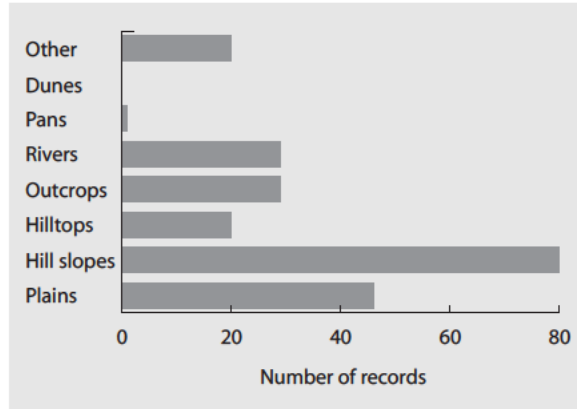
Flowers are inconspicuous and fruit may be overlooked when green. Species can be confused with *E. divinorum*, which has longer leaves that lack a red-brown appearance.

**DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE**

Widespread and common to uncommon in the eastern Karstveld and the central highlands; uncommon along the southern escarpment; scattered localities elsewhere. Largely absent in the east. Compared with previous herbarium records, the range has been extended by the TAP in all directions.

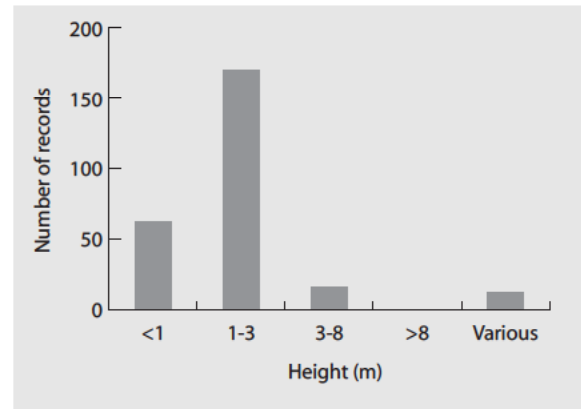
HABITAT

Found in various habitats, but mainly on hill slopes and plains; also on rocky outcrops in the central highlands and south and along dry watercourses in the south. Always on stony or rocky substrates such as dolomite, mica schist, granite and other rock types.



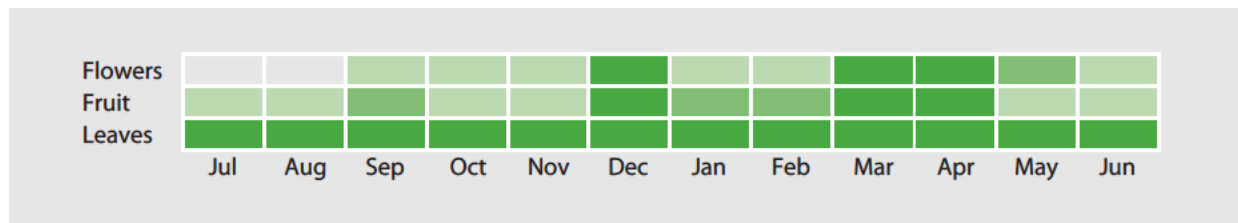
GROWTH FORM

Generally a shrub up to 3 m high, occasionally over 3 m; sometimes tree-like. Thicket-forming in places.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS from September to June with two peaks, one in December and the other in March/April. **FRUIT** found all year, with peaks in the same months as the flowers. **LEAVES** evergreen, with young leaves in January and February.



GENERAL

Used for fighting bush fires. The leaves are browsed by game and livestock. The fruit is edible; the root is used as a toothbrush in some areas. Could be useful horticulturally as a hedge plant.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.