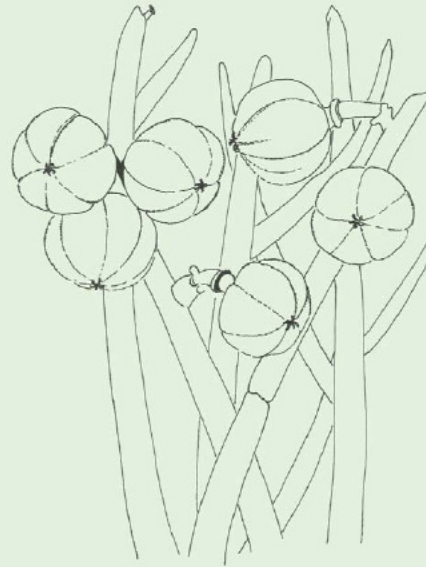


# *Euphorbia damarana*

## Damara Euphorbia

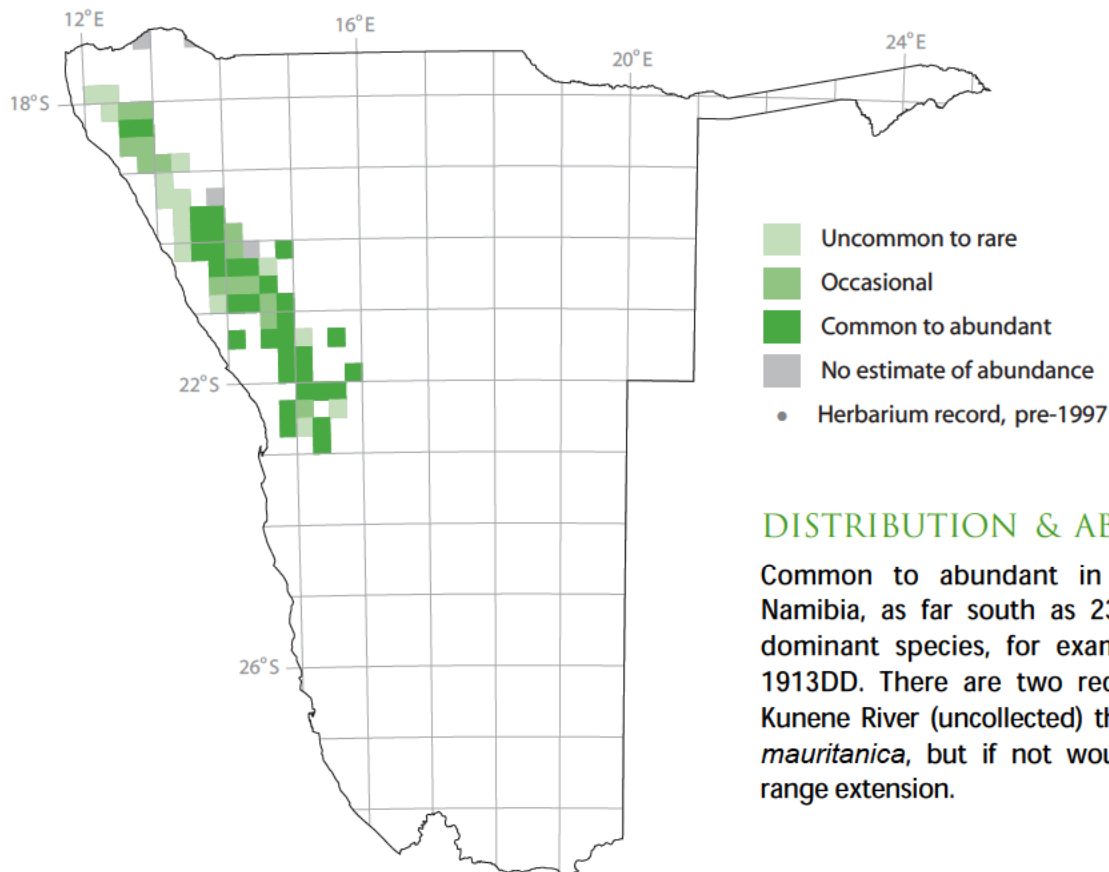
Damaramelkbos (A); kuib (K)

[224 records from 70 (7%) squares]



Yellow-green to blue-green shrub with milky latex. STEMS many, seldom-branched, spineless, succulent. FLOWERS small. FRUIT a rounded capsule up to 22 mm in diameter, usually on an erect stalk.

May be confused with a number of other spineless, succulent shrubs, especially *E. gregaria*, which it closely resembles, but which only occurs in the south.

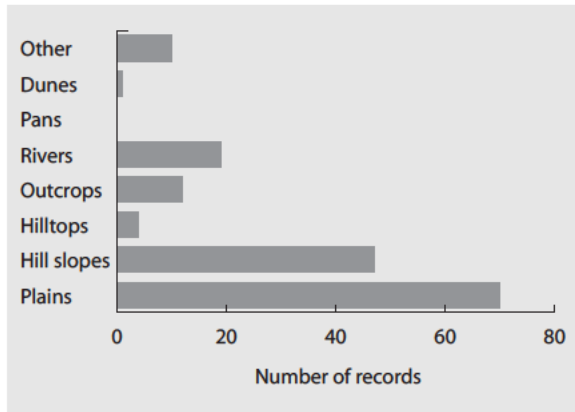


### DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Common to abundant in north-western Namibia, as far south as 23° S; often the dominant species, for example in square 1913DD. There are two records from the Kunene River (uncollected) that could be *E. mauritanica*, but if not would represent a range extension.

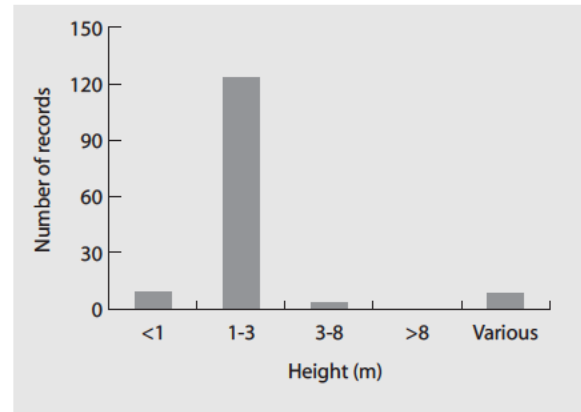
## HABITAT

Found in various habitats, but mainly on rocky or gravel plains and lower hill slopes; also along dry river courses in the north-west.



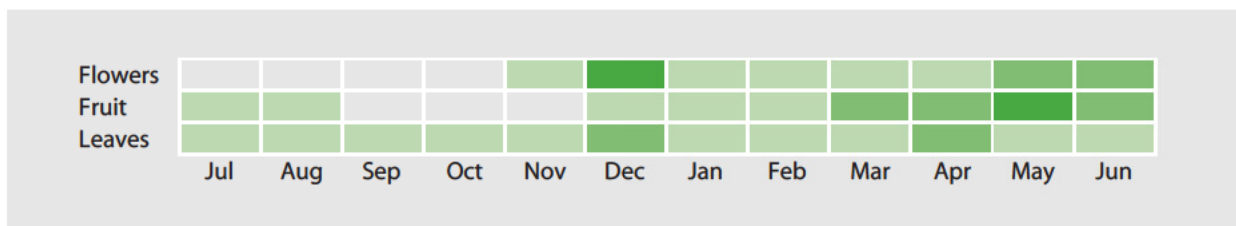
## GROWTH FORM

A shrub up to 3 m high.



## ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS November to June, with the main peak in December and a second in May/June. FRUIT recorded in most months, but mainly March to June. LEAVES although essentially a leafless species, it does produce a few small leaves throughout the year, most often in December and April (after rain).



## GENERAL

A characteristic species of the central to northern Namib Desert. Browsed by black rhino and kudu; springbok and oryx have also been observed browsing the plant. Ground squirrels climb into the bushes to eat the fruit. The milky latex is toxic to humans and highly irritating to the skin, mucous membranes and eyes. After good rains, hundreds of scattered seedlings appear, but few survive.

## CONSERVATION CONCERNS

Endemic; listed in CITES Appendix II.

*Euphorbia damarana*, B. Curtis

