

*Flueggea virosa*= *Securinea virosa*

## Muruturu

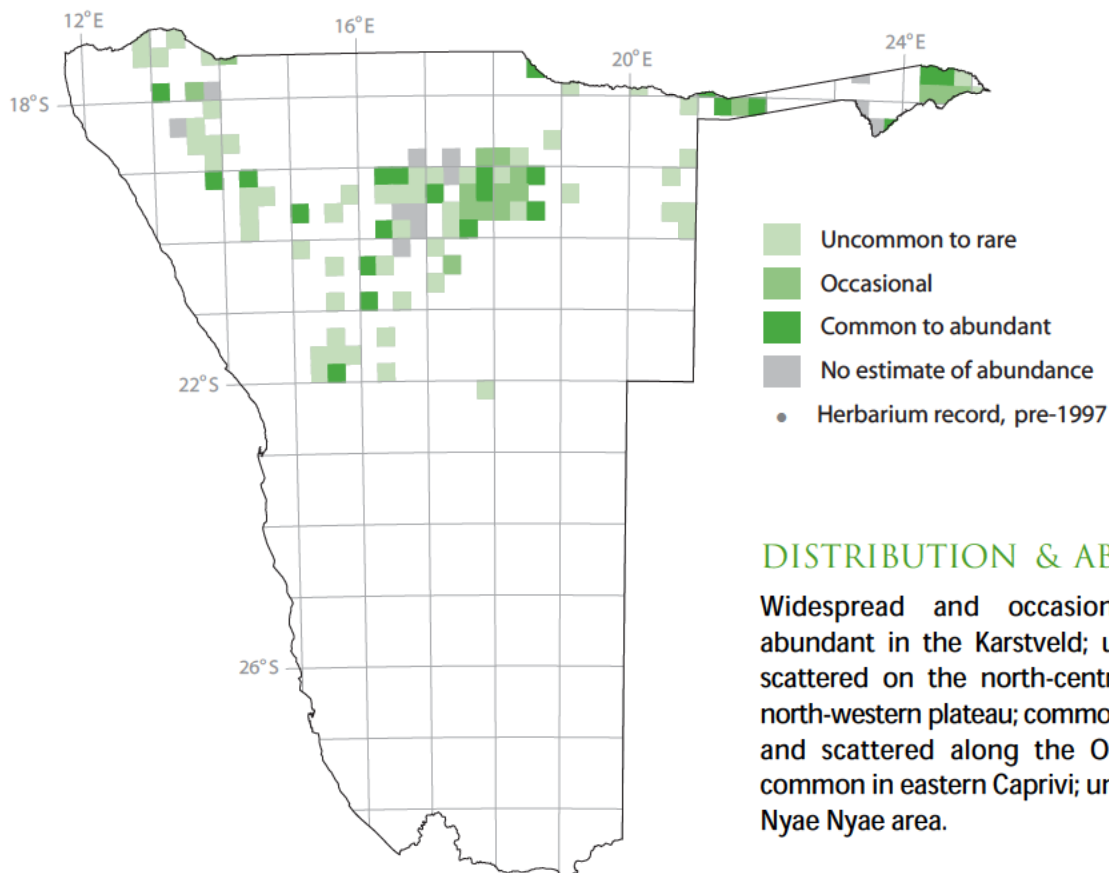
White-berry bush (E); witbessiebos (A);  
!urigune (K); katoma (L)

[236 records from 109 (10%) squares]



Semi-deciduous, densely branched shrub. LEAVES simple, alternate, **elliptic to obovate to circular, thin-textured**, 15–60 mm long; both surfaces bright green, hairless. FLOWERS small, in axillary clusters, cream to greenish; male and female flowers on separate plants. FRUIT a **small, round, fleshy berry, white** when ripe.

Flowers may be overlooked at a distance, but clusters of fruit are more obvious. The plant may be confused with other members of the family.

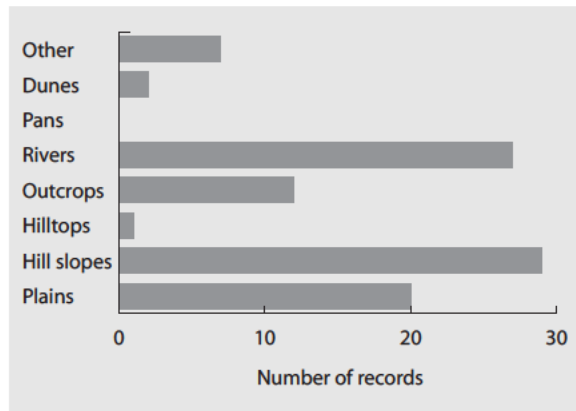


## DISTRIBUTION &amp; ABUNDANCE

Widespread and occasional to locally abundant in the Karstveld; uncommon and scattered on the north-central plateau and north-western plateau; common to uncommon and scattered along the Okavango River; common in eastern Caprivi; uncommon in the Nyae Nyae area.

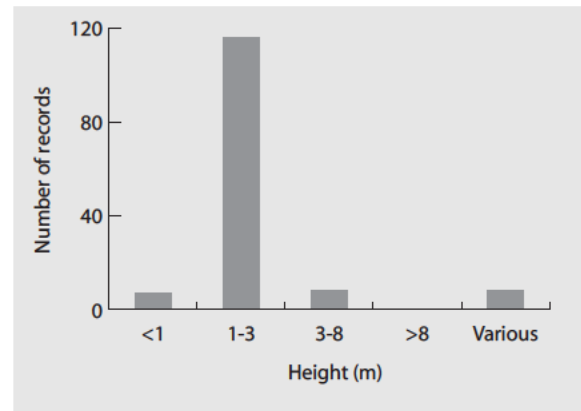
## HABITAT

Found in various habitats, but mainly on hill slopes on the north-central plateau and in the Karstveld, as well as on plains in the latter; along river banks in the north-east; and along dry watercourses in the north-west. Generally on stony or rocky substrates, but also on sand or loam in the north-east.



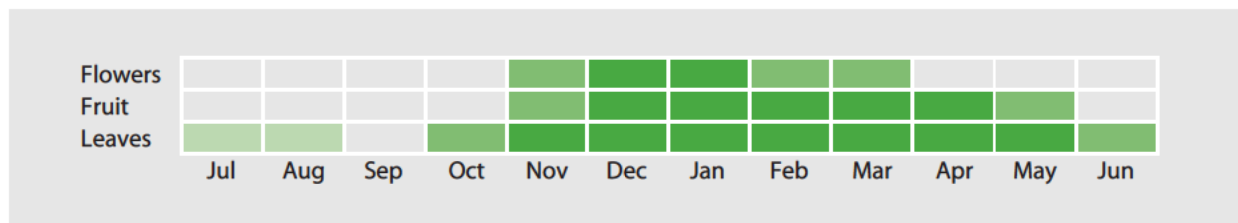
## GROWTH FORM

A shrub up to 3 m high, sometimes over 3 m.



## ANNUAL CYCLE

**FLOWERS** November to March, with a peak in December. **FRUIT** November to May, with the main peak in March. **LEAVES** mostly October to June, with new leaves from October to December.



## GENERAL

Various parts of the plant are used for traditional purposes. *Flueggea virosa* makes an attractive garden shrub, but loses its leaves in winter in Windhoek.

## CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.