

Grewia flava

Velvet Raisin

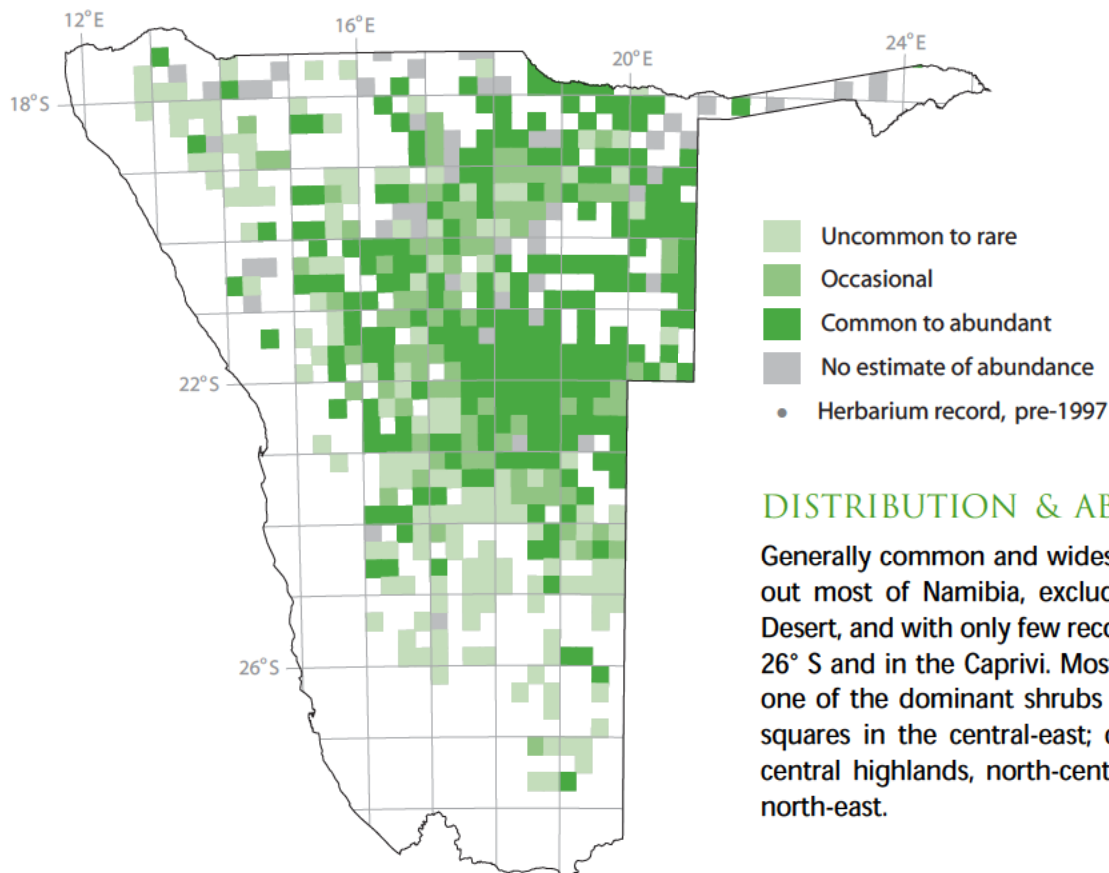
Fluweelrosyntjie, brandewynbessie
(A); omuvapu (H); /awa#âus (K)

[1,465 records from 536 (50%) squares]



Semi-deciduous, compact shrub. BRANCHLETS sturdy, grey. LEAVES **erect; silvery grey-green and densely woolly above**; paler below; base tapering, slightly asymmetric. INFLORESCENCE axillary, one-flowered. FLOWERS yellow, **one per stalk**. FRUIT a round to bilobed berry, up to 8 mm in diameter; dark brown when ripe.

Flowers and fruit are conspicuous. Easily confused with *G. bicolor*, but distinguished by the more erect leaves and unbranched flower and fruit stalks.

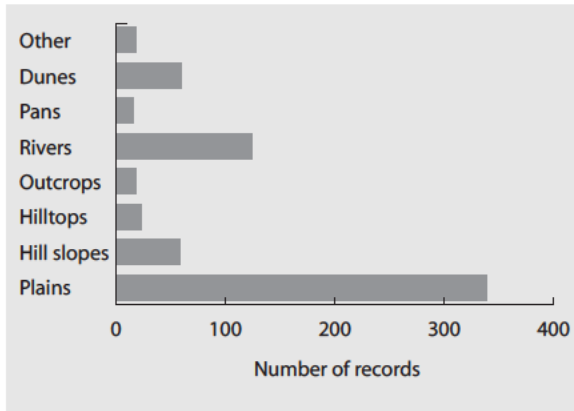


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Generally common and widespread throughout most of Namibia, excluding the Namib Desert, and with only few recordings south of 26° S and in the Caprivi. Most abundant and one of the dominant shrubs in a number of squares in the central-east; common in the central highlands, north-central plateau and north-east.

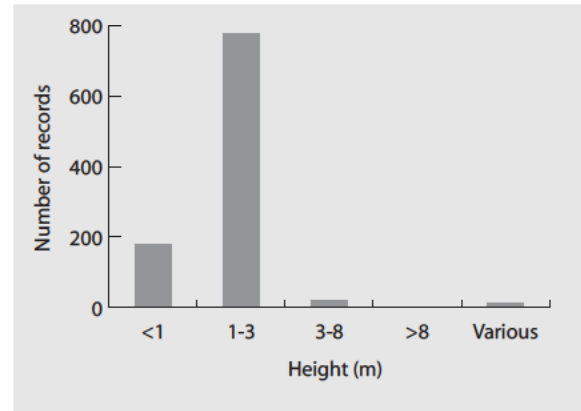
HABITAT

Found in various habitats, but most often on plains. Also found along dry rivers on the south-central plateau, in the north-west and central-west; along dry rivers and on hills in the central highlands; on hill slopes on the north-central plateau and dunes in the south-east. This plant was found on a number of substrates including sand, clay and loam.



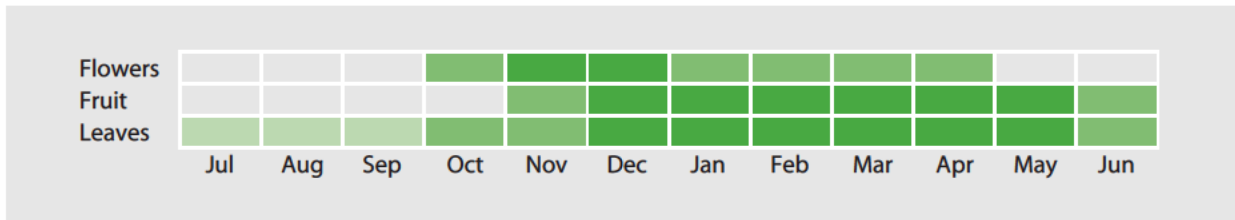
GROWTH FORM

A shrub up to 3 m high, occasionally over 3 m (1% of records).



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS October to April, with a peak in November and December. **FRUIT** November to June. **LEAVES** mostly October to June, with young leaves in September and October.



GENERAL

The leaves are browsed by game and livestock; the fruit eaten by birds and baboons. The plant is often infested with a parasite that causes finger-like outgrowths on the leaves. The fruit is eaten fresh and made into an alcoholic beverage; excessive consumption of fruit can cause constipation. The stems are used to make lightweight but sturdy walking-sticks. Various parts are used medicinally for the treatment of people and their cattle.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.