

Guibourtia coleosperma

Ushivi

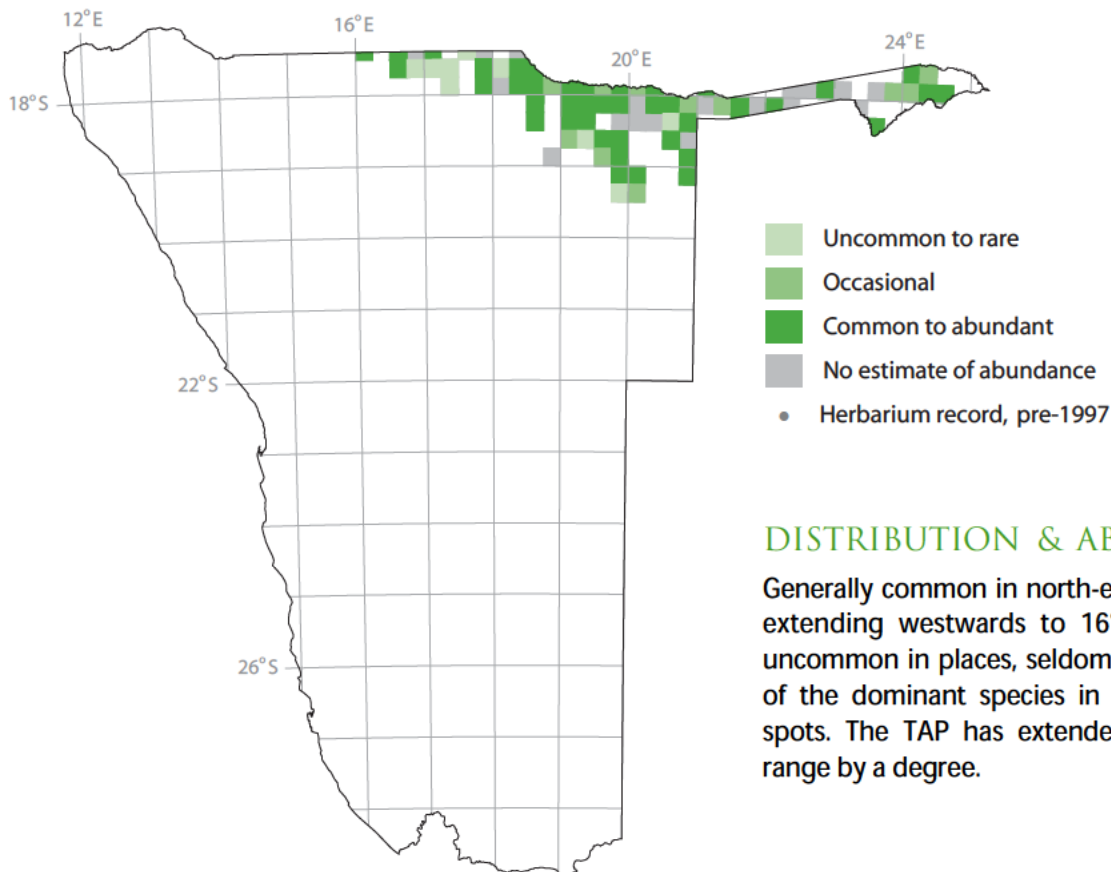
Baster mopanie (A); muzauli (L); omusii (O); ghushi (T)

[160 records from 82 (8%) squares]



Tall tree with spreading crown and **drooping branches**. BARK reddish to yellow-brown; **smooth, often with rough, black patches** peeling off in small fragments. LEAVES **butterfly-shaped; shiny green above**, with dull, waxy coating, hairless; **veins forming definite network**. FLOWERS small, cream-coloured to white, star-shaped, in terminal or axillary sprays. FRUIT a pod, 20–30 mm long, oval, brown to dark brown; thickly woody. SEEDS solitary, c. 10 mm long, **red-brown with conspicuous red aril**.

Fruit is conspicuous. Flowers conspicuous when in profusion, may be overlooked from a distance when only a few. Can only be confused with *Colophospermum mopane* if neither of the species is well known to the observer.

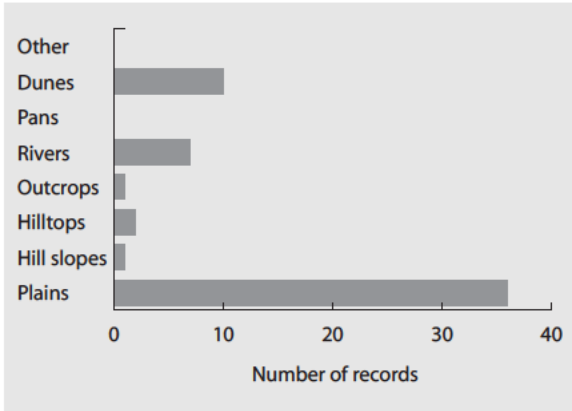


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Generally common in north-eastern Namibia, extending westwards to 16° E; sometimes uncommon in places, seldom abundant. One of the dominant species in a few localised spots. The TAP has extended its westward range by a degree.

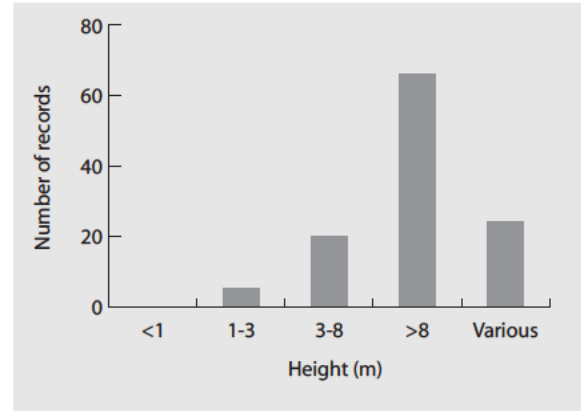
HABITAT

Grows on sandy plains, along rivers and occasionally on dunes or sand hummocks. Usually found in mixed or riverine woodlands.



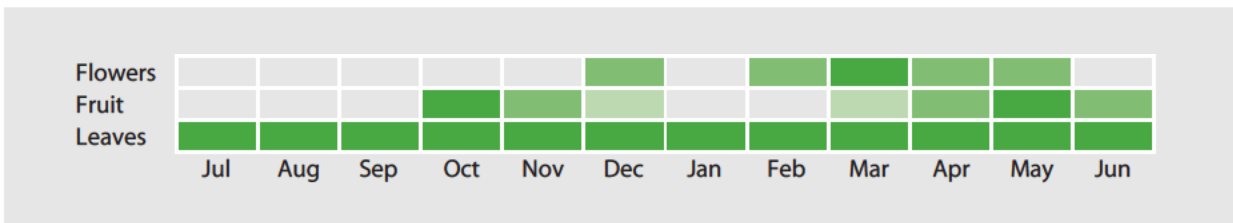
GROWTH FORM

Always a tree, with about 28% of records to 8 m high and 72% taller than 8 m. About 25% of observations had young and old trees of all heights.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS December to May, but mostly March; there were no TAP records of flowers before December, but fruit records peaked before December. FRUIT most records in October and May. LEAVES evergreen.



GENERAL

The seeds are edible, but also used ornamentally; the seed oil is used for cooking, as well as cosmetics. The wood is used for watos (dug-out canoes), construction timber and carved utensils. Various parts are used medicinally. *Guibourtia coleosperma* has horticultural potential for frost-free areas, as it is a very attractive, evergreen shade tree with striking fruit, and white, star-like flowers that show up against the dark, glossy foliage.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded. Protected by forestry legislation.

Colophospermum mopane Continued from page 203:

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

Although widespread and able to regenerate, this species is still of concern as the rate of exploitation may be greater than the rate at which it can recover. Overgrazing can seriously reduce the production of young plants. Protected by forestry legislation.