

# *Gymnosporia buxifolia*

= *Maytenus heterophylla* (in part)

## Gewone Pendoring

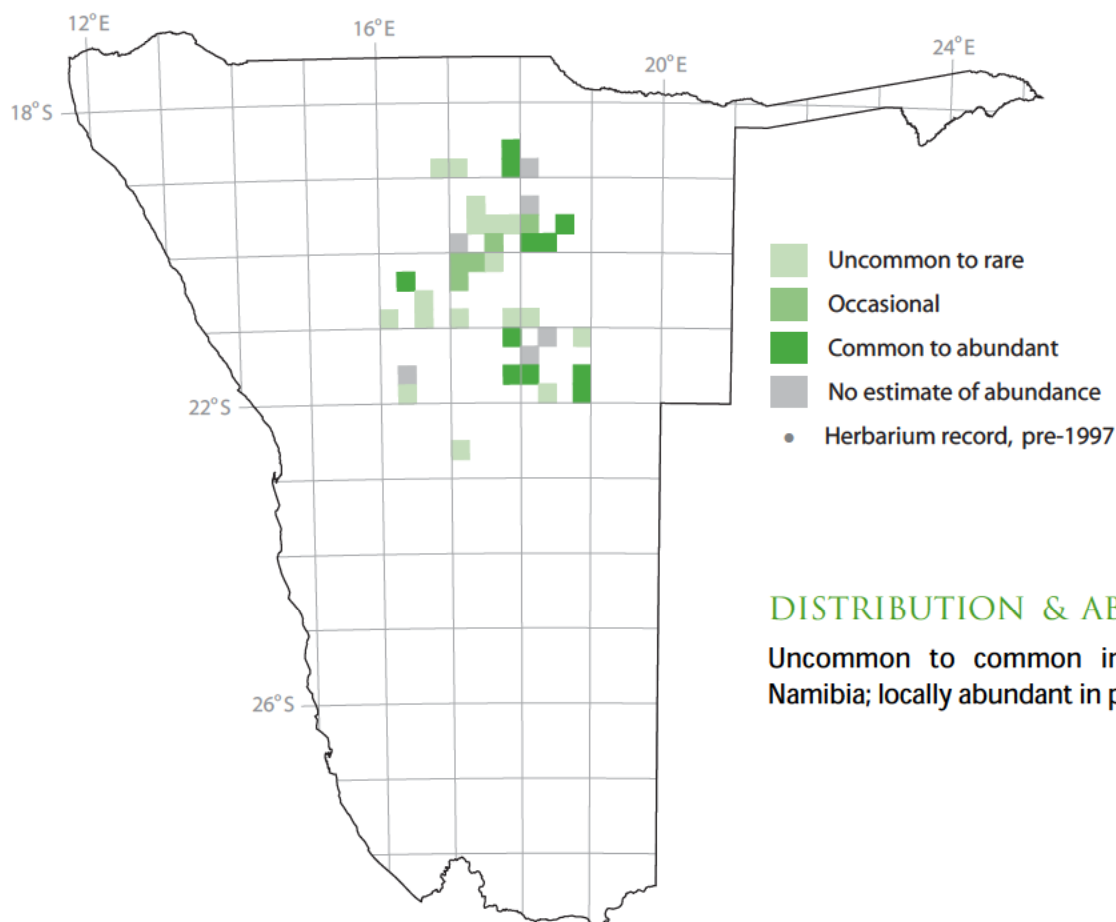
Common spikethorn (E);  
lemoending (A); glo#obe (J)

[96 records from 39 (4%) squares]



A very spiny, evergreen shrub, with terminal branches drooping. SPINES up to 100 mm long, **seldom leafy**. LEAVES **clustered on branch tips**, elongate-obovate, 25–80 mm long; **smooth, papery to parchment-like**; dull green, midrib sunken above; margin irregularly toothed; apex rounded to slightly notched. FLOWERS small, white to cream, **with a strong, unpleasant scent**. FRUIT a **rough-textured capsule which usually splits into three parts**, 2–5 mm in diameter.

Flowers are produced in profusion and are thus conspicuous. Fruit may be overlooked when green.

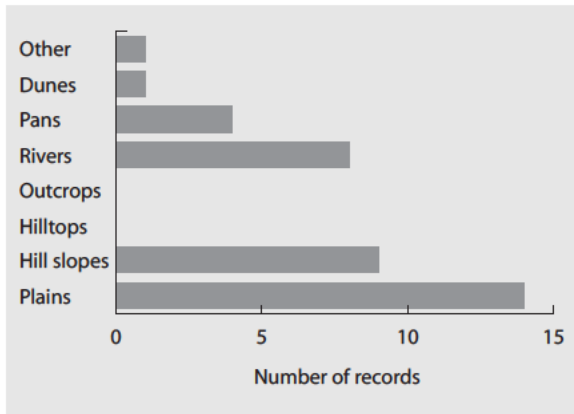


### DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Uncommon to common in north-central Namibia; locally abundant in places.

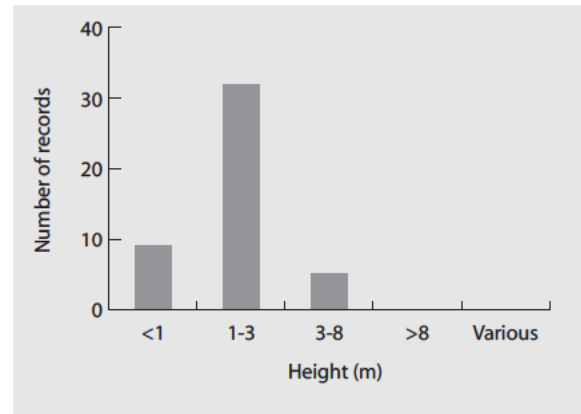
## HABITAT

Found in various habitats, but mainly on plains and hill slopes. Often on calcareous soils.



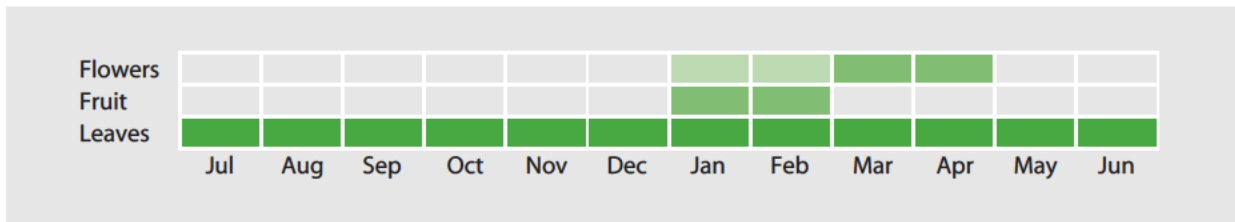
## GROWTH FORM

A shrub up to 3 m high, occasionally a tree of over 3 m.



## ANNUAL CYCLE

Flowering and fruiting records are sparse. FLOWERS mainly March and April, with single records from August to February. FRUIT January and February, with single records intermittently in other months. LEAVES evergreen.



## GENERAL

These plants are able to coppice. It is the common spike-thorn in South Africa, but in Namibia *G. senegalensis* is more common.

## CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.

This species is often confused with *G. senegalensis*, which has a much wider distribution. *Gymnosporia buxifolia* has a thinnish-textured leaf with a short petiole (up to 5 mm long); its spines rarely carry leaf clusters, its capsules are smooth and usually split into three parts and its seed has a yellow aril. *Gymnosporia senegalensis* has a thick-textured leaf with a petiole that can reach up to 17 mm in length; its spines often carry leaf clusters, and it has a rough capsule that usually splits into two parts, and a white to pinkish seed aril.