

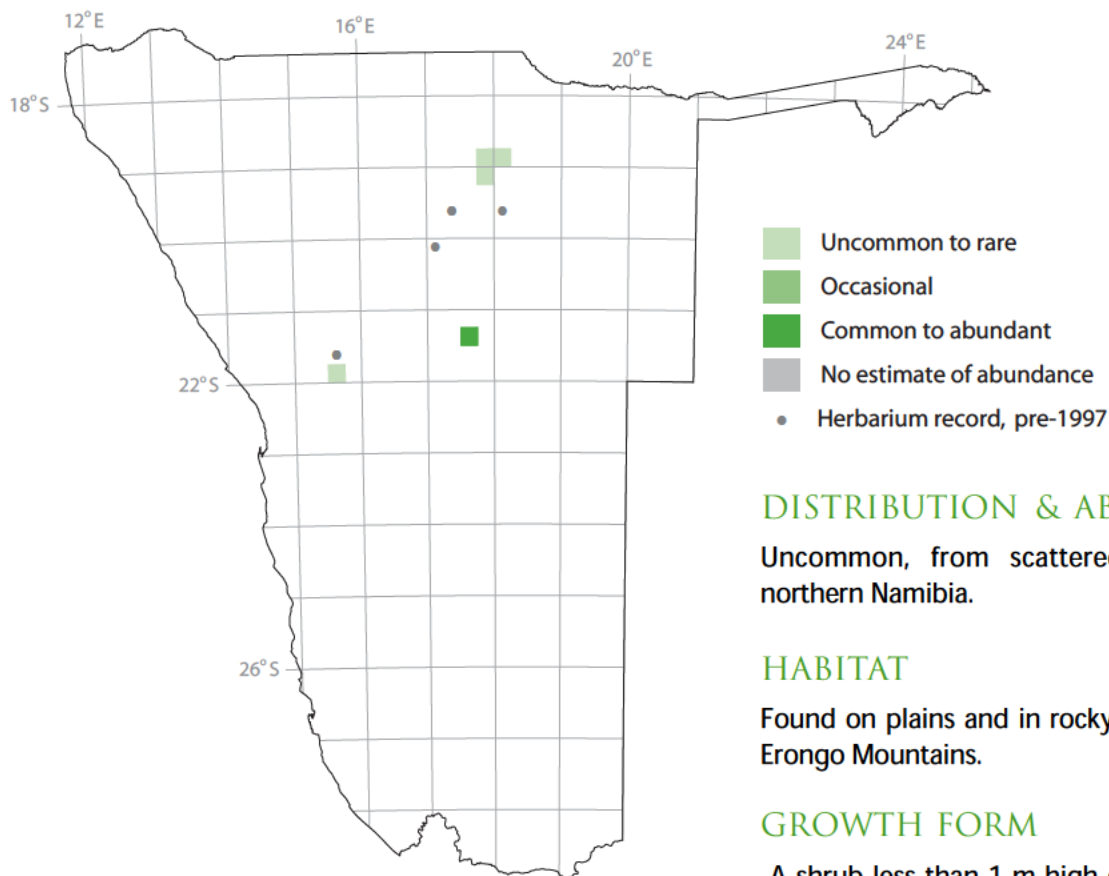
Gymnosporia maranguensis

= *Maytenus heterophylla* (in part)

Tropical Spikethorn

[10 records from 5 (<0.5%) squares]

Small, dense, rigid shrub. BRANCHES green when young, **slightly angular, sometimes with a tendency to twine**. SPINES **very slender and needle-sharp on terminal branches**, older spines more robust. LEAVES oblanceolate to obovate; **quite thin-textured** although leathery; **bright green**; margins irregularly toothed in upper half; petiole short. INFLORESCENCE a cluster longer than the leaves, often carried on the spines; composed of small, white, sweetly scented flowers. FRUIT a smooth capsule, with two, occasionally three chambers; yellow, flushed pinkish or reddish; bright yellow inside.



DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Uncommon, from scattered localities in northern Namibia.

HABITAT

Found on plains and in rocky crevices in the Erongo Mountains.

GROWTH FORM

A shrub less than 1 m high or in the 1–3-m height class.

ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS and FRUIT were recorded in April and May. LEAVES were recorded in summer; old leaves in July and August, new leaves in October.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.