

# *Gyrocarpus americanus*

## Propeller Tree

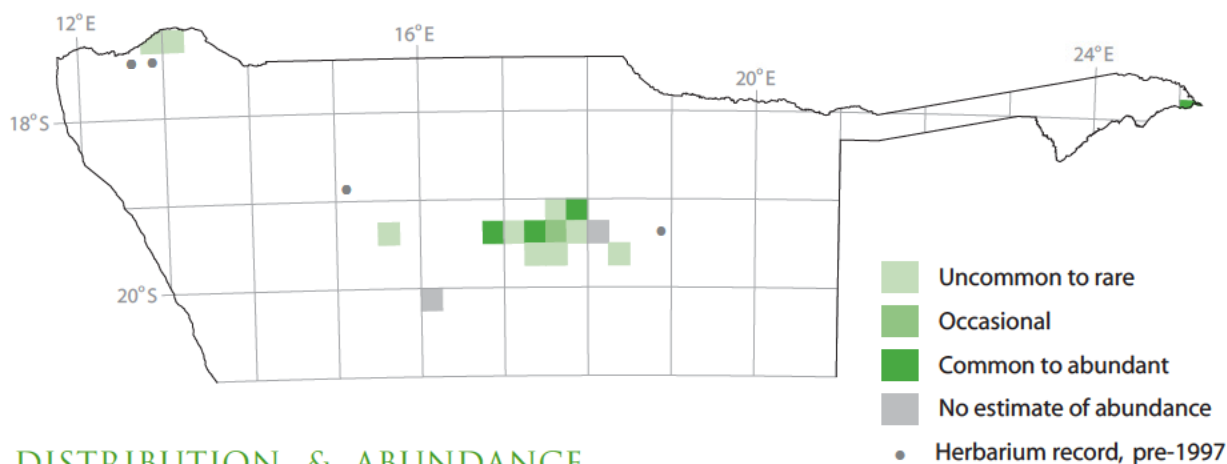
Helikopterboom; draaivrugboom (A);  
thindongowarodhi (T)

[39 records from 15 (1%) squares]



A tall, deciduous tree. BARK **pale grey, smooth, shiny, flaky**; young branchlets bright green and glossy, becoming grey-brown with grey-white lenticels. LEAVES simple, **clustered on ends of older branches; trilobed**, three conspicuous veins originate from the base; petiole 35–100 mm long, green, downy. FRUIT a **two-winged capsule**, propeller-like.

Subspecies *africanus* occurs in Namibia.



### DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Occasional to locally common in the eastern Karstveld, rare along the Kunene River and locally common on Impalila Island. A large stand was seen in 1916BD. There are a few earlier herbarium records from the north-west.

### HABITAT

Found mainly on hill slopes, sometimes hilltops. Always on dolomite rock.

### GROWTH FORM

A tree 3-8 m high, occasionally taller.

### ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS mostly March to May; flowering while losing their leaves. FRUIT mostly April to June. LEAVES October to February.

### GENERAL

Leaves and roots used medicinally.

### CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded. Protected under forestry legislation.