

Kigelia africana

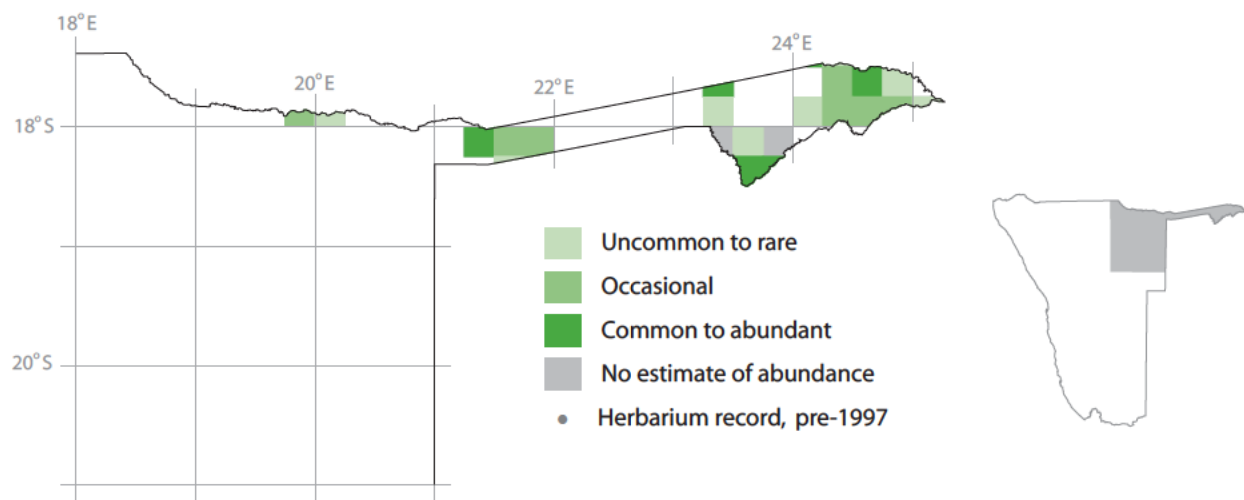
Sausage Tree

Worsboom (A); Wurstbaum (G);
|tollo (Kx); kazungula, mupolota (L);
vunguvungu (Rk, Rum);
divunguvungu (T)

[61 records from 24 (2%) squares]



Semi-deciduous tree with **spreading crown**. **LEAVES** large, compound, 3–4 leaflet pairs with basal pair much smaller than others; leaflets broadly elliptic to obovate, hard, brittle; shiny, dark green above; paler green and densely downy below; margin entire, occasionally toothed. **FLOWERS** large, showy, deep red and crinkly; in a robust hanging spray. **FRUIT** very large, heavy, sausage-shaped; hanging on an almost 1-m-long stalk; light greyish-brown dotted with lenticels.

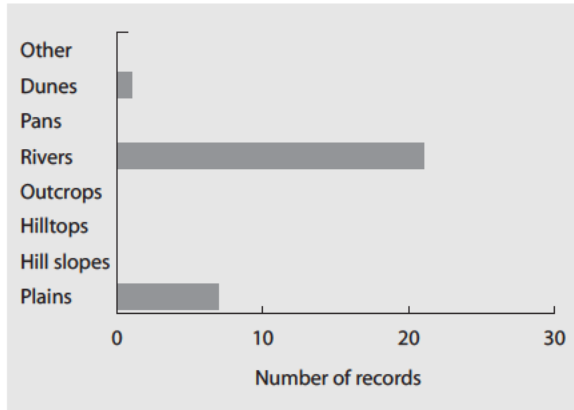


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Common in places along the Okavango River; common to uncommon in eastern Caprivi.

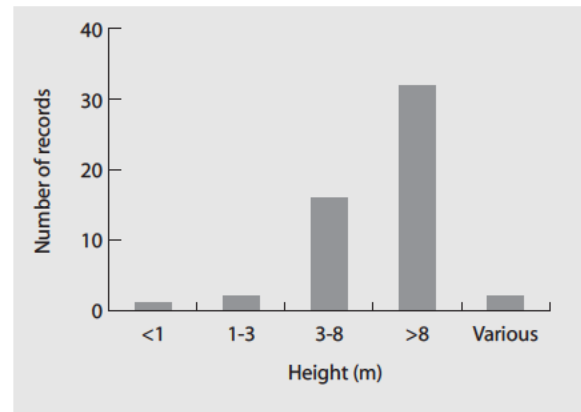
HABITAT

Mainly found on floodplains and along river banks; sometimes on sandy plains. Always in woodland.



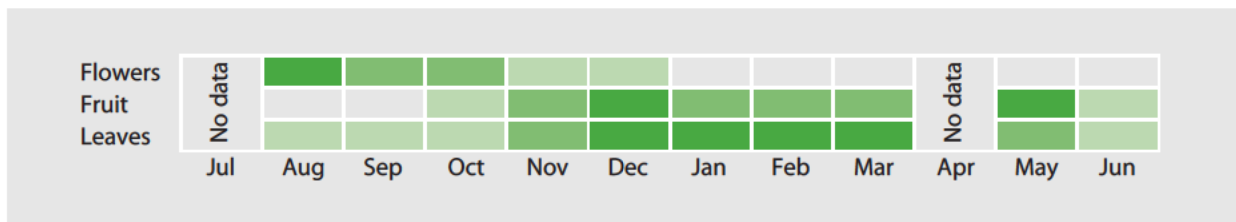
GROWTH FORM

Always a tree, up to 8 m high (35% of records) or taller (65%). Very few young trees reported.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS mainly August, continuing to December. FRUIT from October to March, and also in May and June. LEAVES on some trees most months, with young leaves in August.



GENERAL

There are numerous uses of this tree. The bark and fruit are used medicinally; the seeds are sometimes roasted and eaten. A beautiful shade tree with lovely flowers commonly planted in gardens in the north, with a few in Windhoek, though they are frost-sensitive when young. The fruit is the larval food and home of certain moths.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

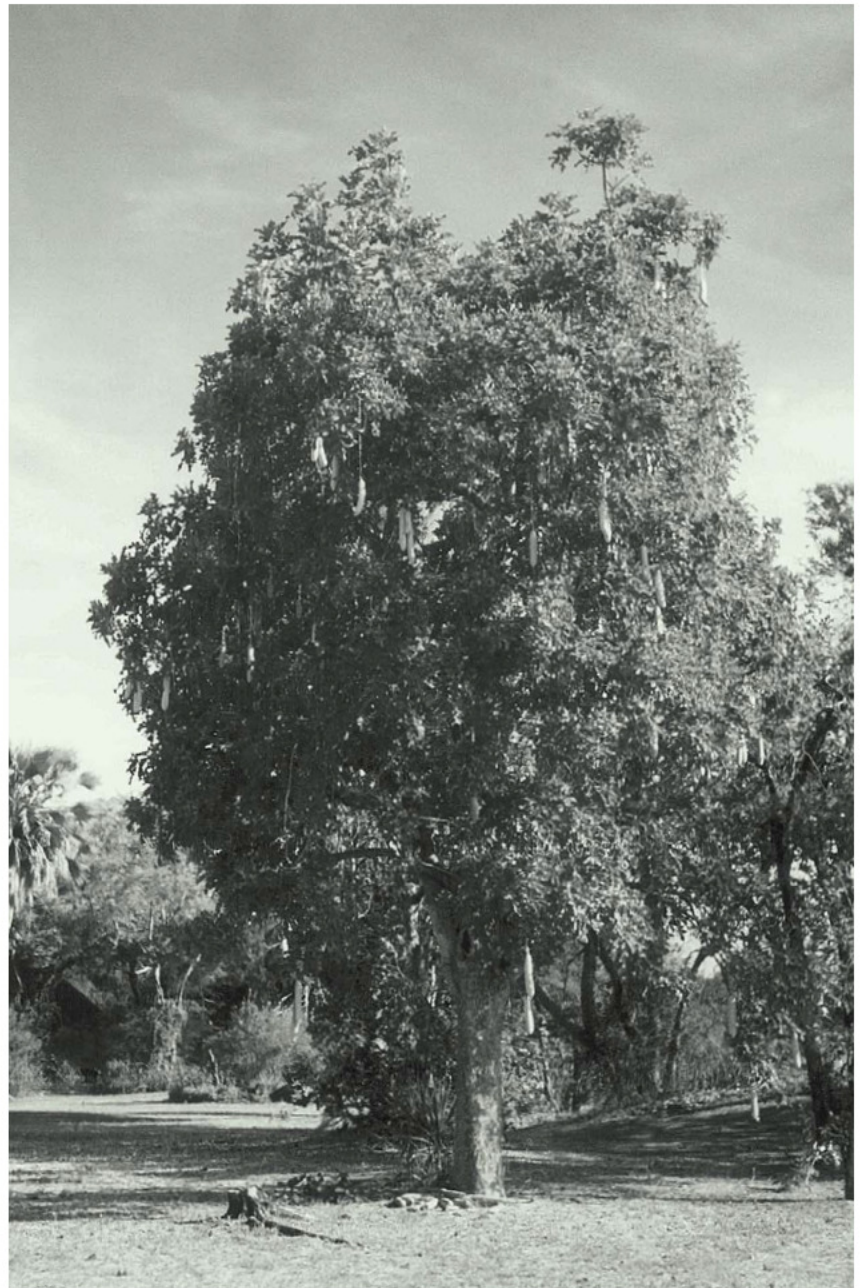
Because this species is conspicuous and cannot have been overlooked, the lack of recent records along the Okavango River suggests that it has been over-exploited. Generally found only in protected areas, such as national parks, on islands and within fenced-off areas. Absent from highly utilised areas along the river.

**BIGNONIACEAE |
JACARANDA FAMILY**

This family of shrubs, trees and lianas generally has large, compound leaves. The large, showy flowers are bell- or trumpet-shaped, with the corolla tips free and curled backwards. The fruit are generally long, narrow, dehiscent pods or large berries.



Top left: *Markhamia obtusifolia*, C. Hines



Top right: *Kigelia africana*, tree with fruit, B. Curtis

Right: *Kigelia africana*, flower, P. Reiner

