

Maerua juncea

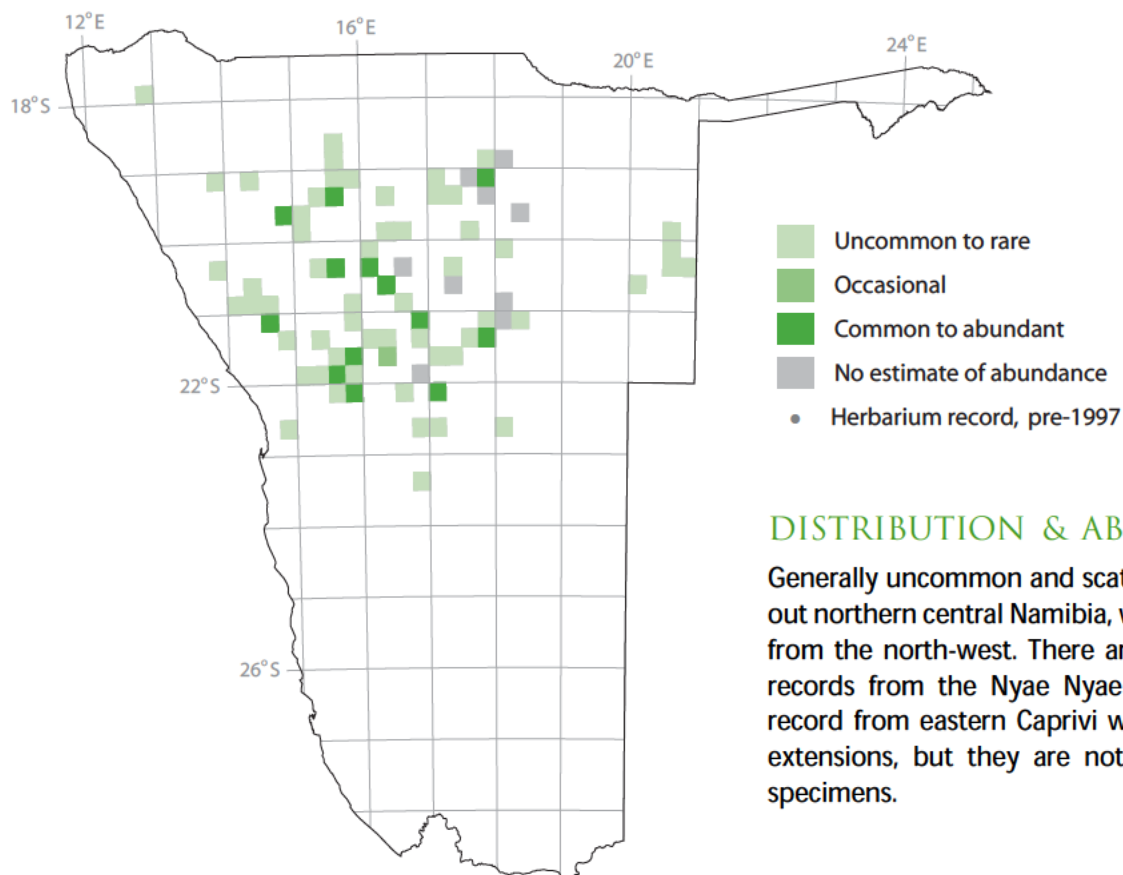
Slangeier

Schlangeneierbusch (G); orueti (H);
/ao!uwub (K)

[138 records from 79 (7%) squares]



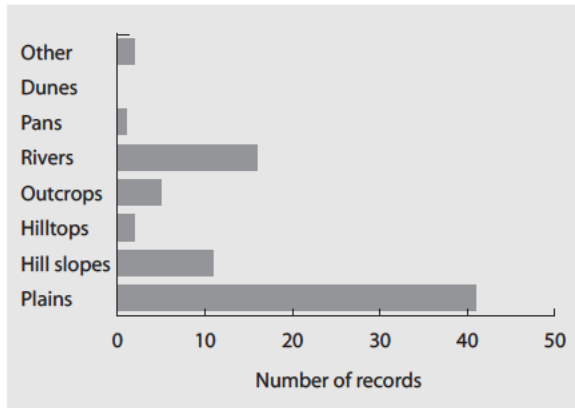
Dense, **many-stemmed, semi-deciduous shrub or scrambler**; **young branchlets fine**, green, longitudinally ribbed. **LEAVES simple or sometimes trifoliolate**, spirally arranged; shape very variable; **both surfaces dark green**. **INFLORESCENCE** a few-flowered terminal spike, or solitary flowers. **FLOWERS** with conspicuous, long, cream-coloured stamens giving a wide brush-like appearance. **FRUIT fat, irregularly sausage-shaped, many-seeded**, rough-skinned, brown when ripe.

**DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE**

Generally uncommon and scattered throughout northern central Namibia, with one record from the north-west. There are a number of records from the Nyae Nyae area and one record from eastern Caprivi which are range extensions, but they are not supported by specimens.

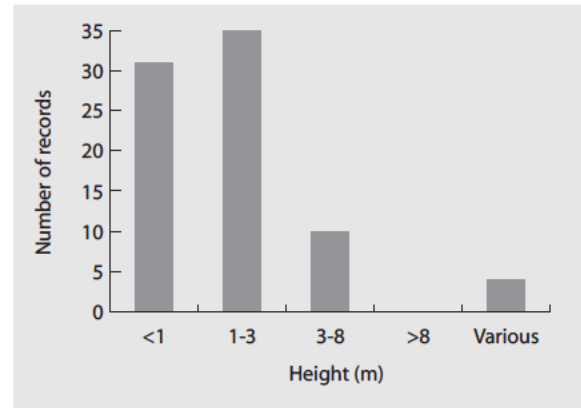
HABITAT

Mostly plains, also various other habitats, including a termite hill. Mostly on sand. Climbing into various different species.



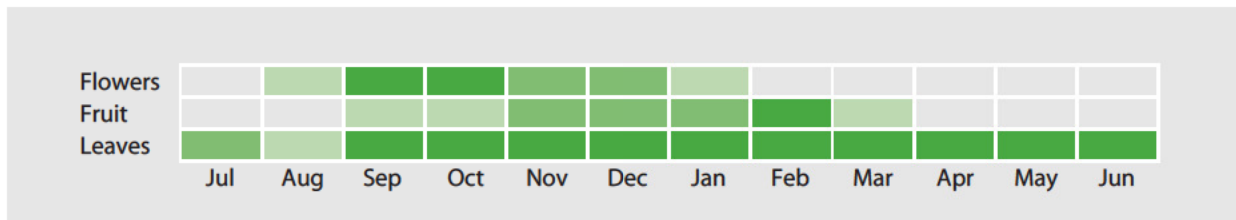
GROWTH FORM

Generally a climber, but sometimes a shrub in the 1–3-m category. As a climber it can reach over 3 m and can appear as a conspicuously lush, dark green clump on an otherwise bare tree. It sometimes completely covers the supporting plants, with branches hanging down.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS August to January, mainly September and October. **FRUIT** mostly November to March, with a peak in February. **LEAVES** essentially evergreen.



GENERAL

Browsed by animals; sometimes infested with scale insects; the fruit are eaten by birds. Of horticultural potential as it grows easily from seed, has attractive flowers, does well in mica-schist and is frost-tolerant.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.



Maerua juncea flower, B. Curtis