

Mimosa pigra

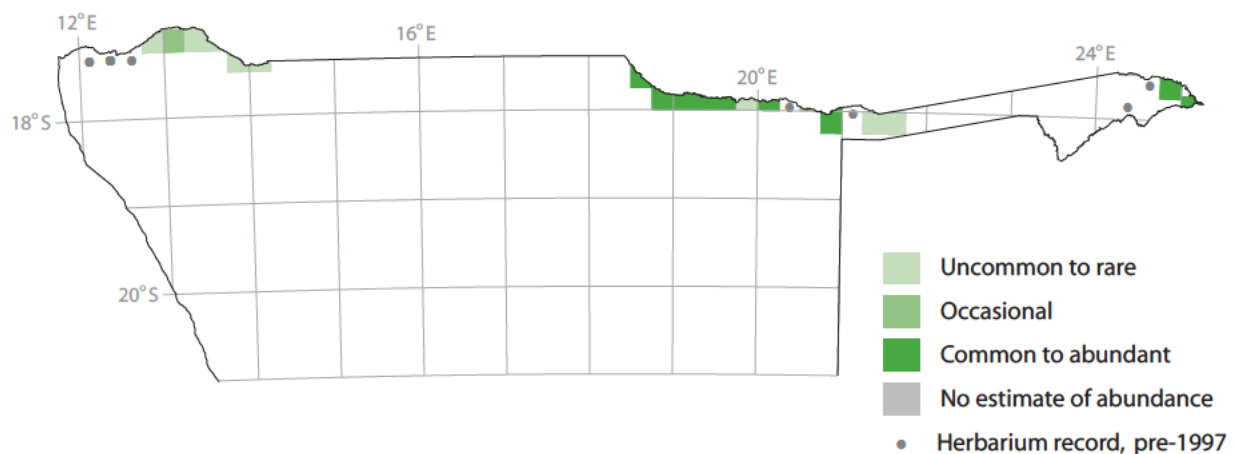
Nambara-nambara

River mimosa (E); omutahoni (H);
murombe (T)

[26 records from 21 (2%) squares]



Evergreen shrub, **often scrambling**, up to 3 m high. BRANCHLETS with **scattered thorns**. LEAVES with many small leaflets, **petiole and rachis with rust-brown, bristly covering; pale yellow to reddish spines between each pinna pair**. FLOWERS **pink to purple in round heads**. FRUIT a 30–70 mm, straight or slightly curved, dark-brown pod; **bristly, with sharply pointed tip; valves break up transversely into segments leaving a seam network with the thickened margin remaining on the plant**.



DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Widespread and common along the northern perennial rivers. Previously recorded further downstream on the Kunene River than at present.

HABITAT

Found on river banks and floodplains, in riverine forest or in the open. Often half submerged.

GROWTH FORM

A shrub, generally in the 1–3-m height class, occasionally over 3 m; sometimes scrambling over other plants.

ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS October to June, mostly December (including herbarium records). **FRUIT** all year, mainly December. **LEAVES** only recorded by the TAP from November to May.

Right: *Mimosa pigra* leaves, pods and inflorescence, P. Reiner

Below: Okavango River, P. Reiner

GENERAL

Forming thickets along river banks. Leaves used medicinally.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

Some people maintain that *Mimosa pigra* is alien to southern Africa, but there does not seem to be any certainty on this issue; it is not recorded as an alien in Germishuizen & Meyer (2003).

