

# *Montinia caryophyllacea*

## Omutete

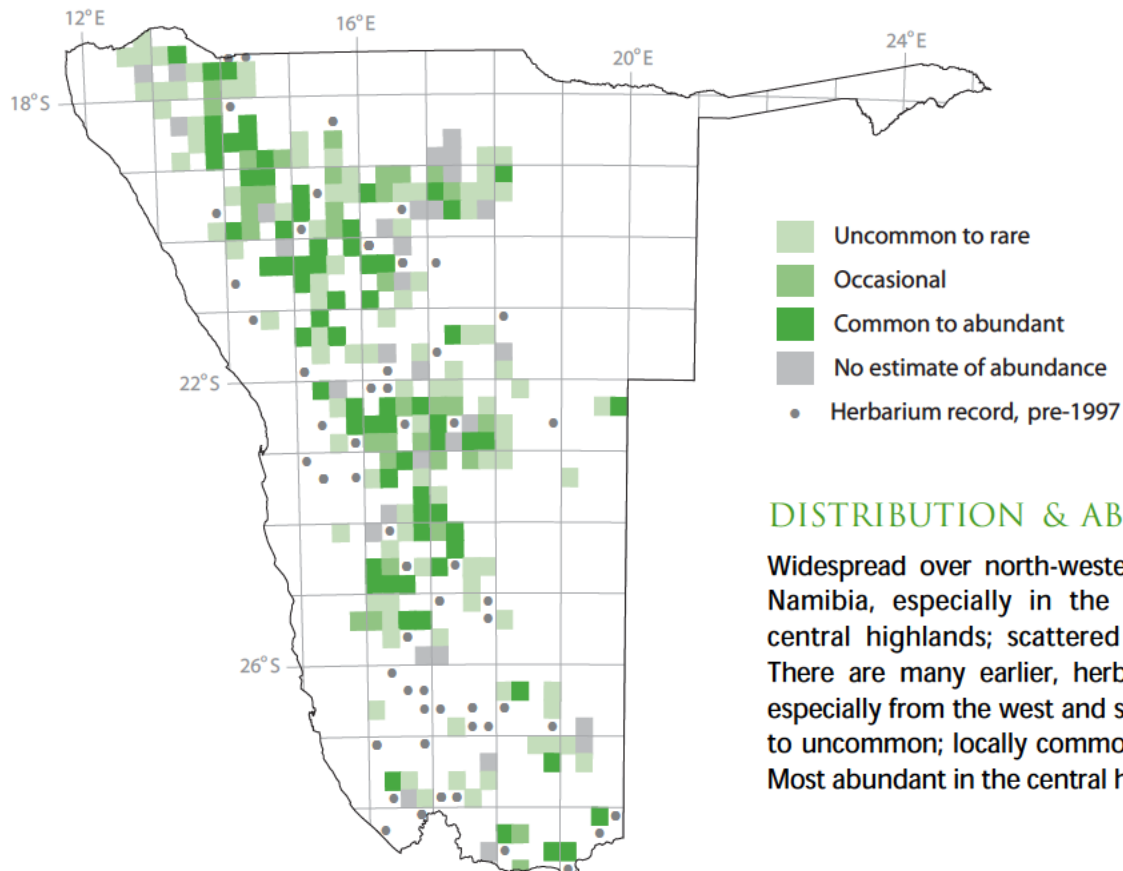
Wild clove-bush (E); peperbos, bergklapperbos (A); Pfeifenstrauch (G)

[393 records from 183 (17%) squares]



Following strict taxonomic order, this species would come before *Parinari curatellifolia*.

Semi-deciduous, **lax shrub**. LEAVES simple; linear-oblong to broadly lanceolate to elliptic, 15–70 mm long; **pale green, smooth, with a dull, waxy coating; margin entire**. INFLORESCENCE **male and female flowers on separate plants**. FLOWERS **small, waxy, white**; male flowers shallow, in small terminal sprays; female flowers solitary with a **large inferior ovary below the small, flat corolla**. FRUIT a **papery-woody, ovoid capsule**, 15–20 mm long, **splitting into two valves**. SEEDS **flat, with a membranous wing**.

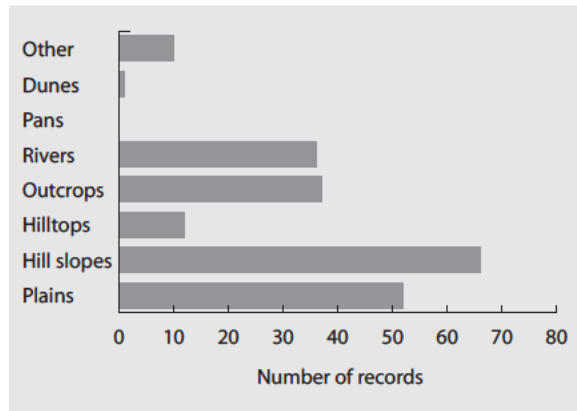


### DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Widespread over north-western and central Namibia, especially in the Karstveld and central highlands; scattered in the south. There are many earlier, herbarium records, especially from the west and south. Common to uncommon; locally common in the south. Most abundant in the central highlands.

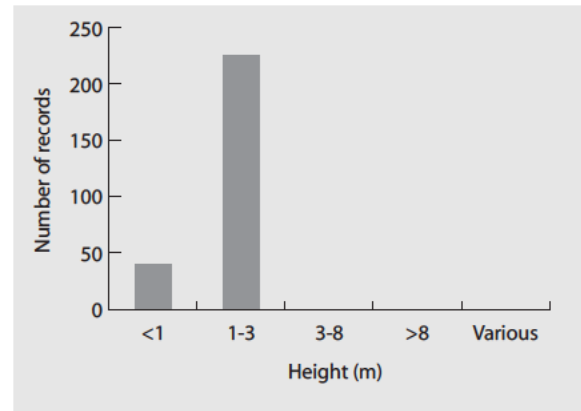
## HABITAT

Various, but mainly hill slopes and rocky outcrops in the central highlands, plains in the Karstveld, and dry rivers in the south. It is found on a variety of substrates, including calcrete, gravel, granite and granitic soil, mica schist, dolomite, basalt and shale.



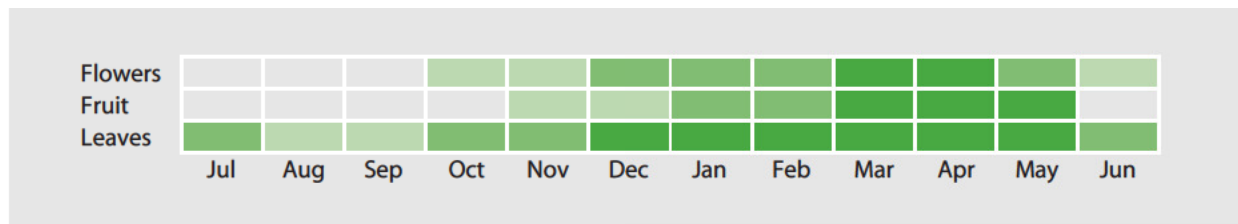
## GROWTH FORM

A shrub in the 1–3-m height class.



## ANNUAL CYCLE

**FLOWERS** October to June, but mostly March and April. **FRUIT** November to May, with some found all year round. **LEAVES** October to July, with young leaves in September and October.



## GENERAL

Heavily browsed by game and livestock; fruit eaten by koringkrieks (armoured ground cricket).

## CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.

*Montinia caryophyllacea*,  
L. Hoffmann

