

*Olea europaea*

## Wild Olive

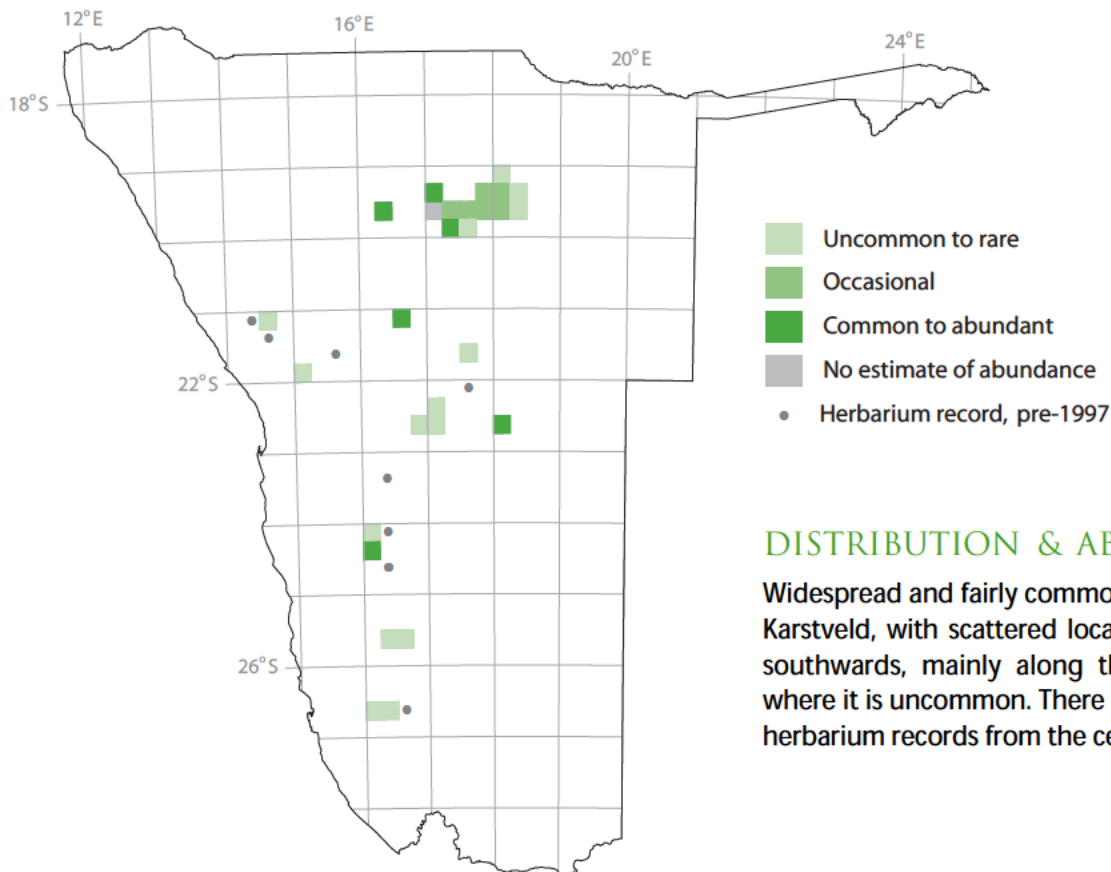
Olienhout (A); kanongovandu (H);  
!goms (K)

[90 records from 28 (3%) squares]



Shrub or tree with **dense, rounded crown and a greyish appearance**. LEAVES simple, oblong to **narrowly lanceolate**, 30–95 mm long; grey-green to shiny dark green, hairless above, densely covered in **pale silvery to greenish scales below**; margin entire, somewhat turned under; apex pointed to blunt; base narrowly tapering. FLOWERS small, whitish. FRUIT an ovoid berry; black when ripe.

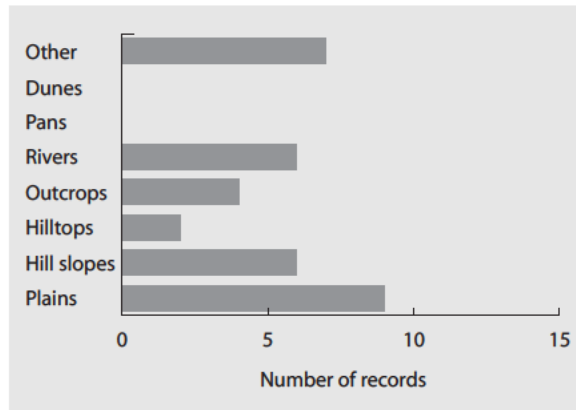
There is one subspecies in Namibia, *africana*.

**DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE**

Widespread and fairly common in the eastern Karstveld, with scattered localities extending southwards, mainly along the escarpment, where it is uncommon. There are some earlier herbarium records from the central-west.

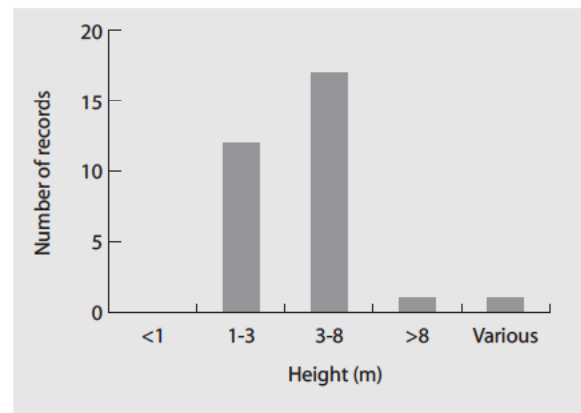
## HABITAT

Found in various habitats; on plains in the Karstveld; along dry rivers in the central highlands and the south; on hill slopes in the south; and rocky outcrops in the south-west. Grows on rocky or gravel substrates, often calcrete.



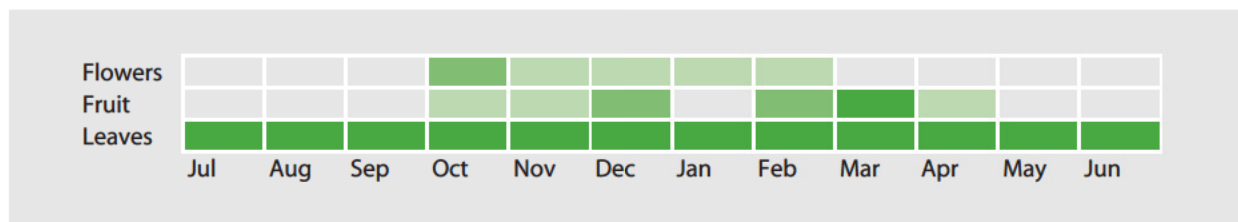
## GROWTH FORM

Mostly a tree in the 3–8-m height class.



## ANNUAL CYCLE

Very few records of flowers or fruit. FLOWERS in October, with single records till February. FRUIT from October to April, but mostly in March. LEAVES evergreen.



## GENERAL

The leaves are browsed by game and livestock. The wood is resistant to termites and wood-borers (cerambycids), and is used for fencing and small articles. Various parts of the plant are used medicinally. An ideal garden plant, as it is frost- and drought-tolerant.

## CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded. Protected by forestry legislation.

*Olea europaea* subsp. *africana*,  
L. Hoffmann

