

Pavetta schumanniana

Poison Brides-bush

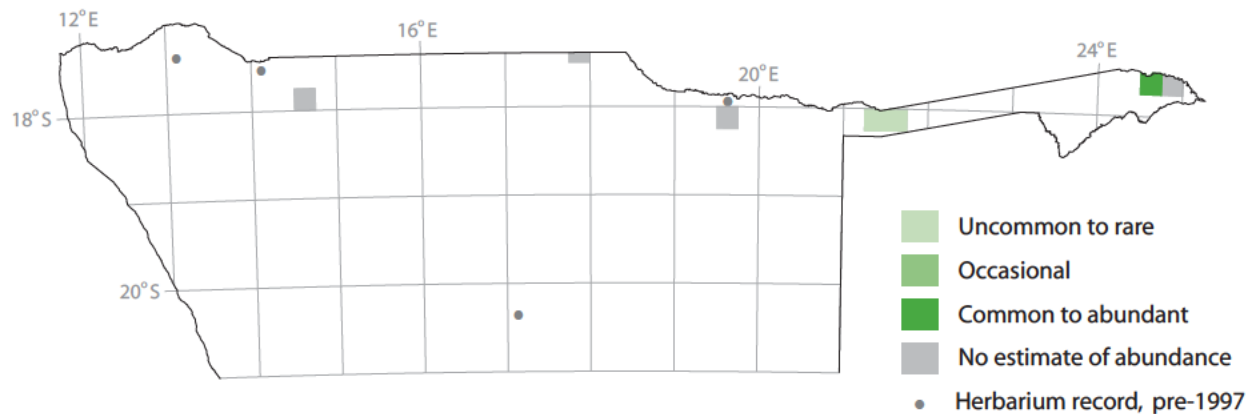
Gifbruidsbos (A); t!eyoi (K); mugcaragcaca (T = wood that breaks easily)

[5 records from 5 squares]

Deciduous shrub, occasionally a suffrutex. BARK grey-brown; older trunk grooved. LEAVES simple, with black bacterial nodules; **oblong to obovate, often over 60 mm long**; dark green above with scattered grey hairs; paler and densely woolly below. FLOWERS white, tubular;



downy on outside. FRUIT spherical, up to 8 mm in diameter; carried in clusters; with remains of calyx on tip; black when ripe.



DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Uncommon in widely scattered localities across extreme northern Namibia.

HABITAT

Found on river banks and plains, and a rocky outcrop in 1714DC.

GROWTH FORM

A shrub in the 1–3-m height class.

ANNUAL CYCLE

Observations in December, January and March to May. FLOWERS recorded in December and Feb-

ruary (herbarium). FRUIT January to April (herbarium records) and May. LEAVES present in months of observation.

GENERAL

The leaves are poisonous to livestock, causing 'gousiekte'.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

Almost unknown in Namibia; rare. Either the species was overlooked by atlassers or the population has declined.