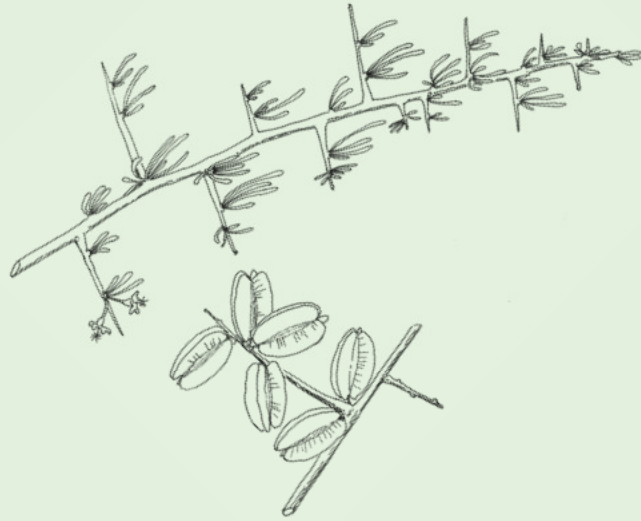


# *Phaeoptilum spinosum*

## Brosdoring

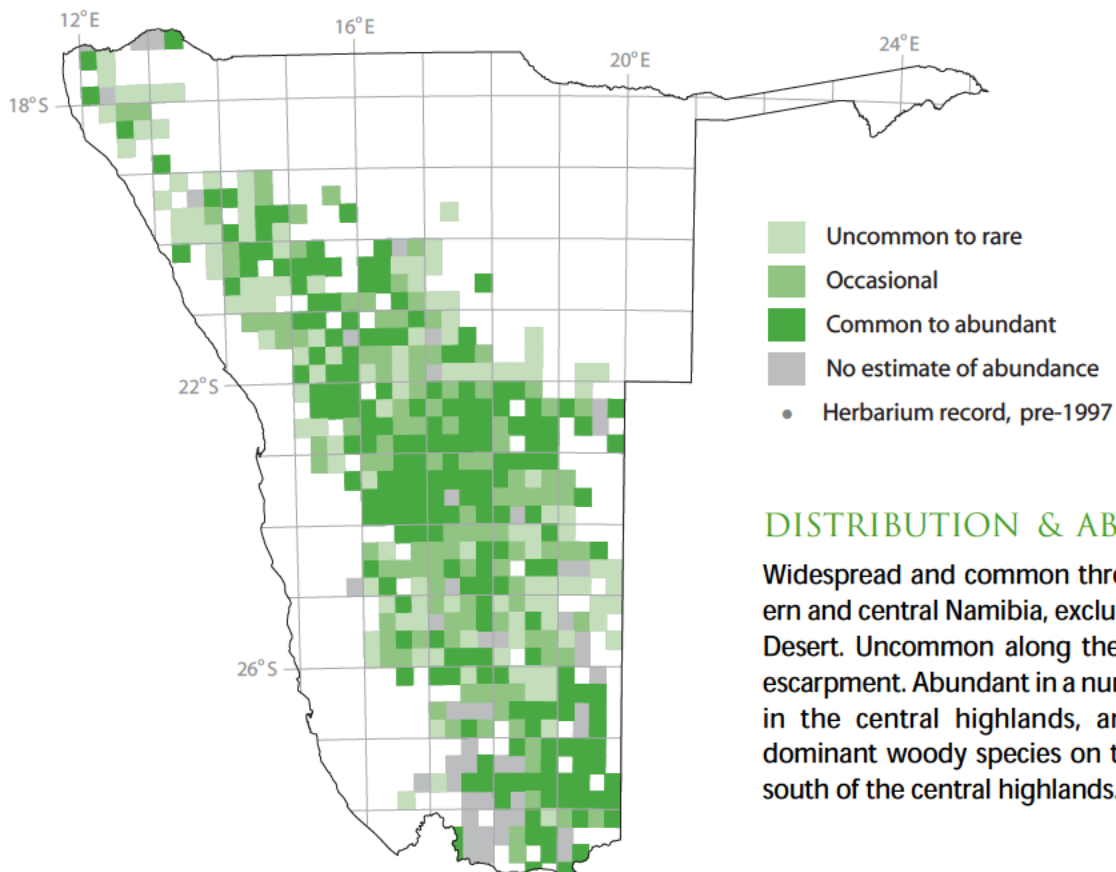
Brittle-thorn (E); wilde bougainvilla (A); Flügelfruchtstrauch (G); otjinanguruve (H); ||àri.s (K)

[1,415 records from 486 (45%) squares]



**Many-stemmed, much-branched shrub, with arching branches and spinescent twigs.** LEAVES simple, narrow, elongate, spirally arranged or clustered on dwarf shoots; dull grey-green, hairless; petiole very short. FLOWERS tubular; pale creamy yellow; usually clustered on dwarf shoots. FRUIT **papery, four-winged**, silvery to yellow to pink-red.

Most conspicuous when in fruit. Without flowers or fruit, it is very easy to confuse with *Lycium* spp.

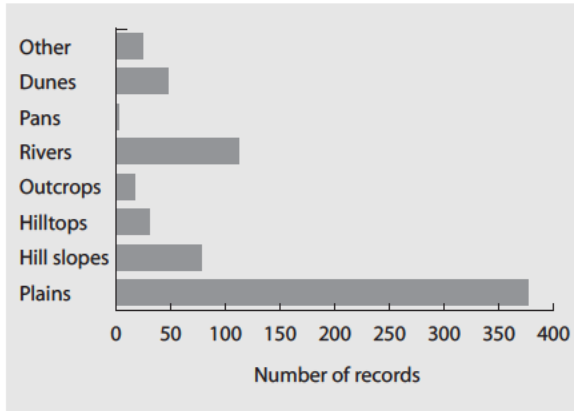


### DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Widespread and common throughout southern and central Namibia, excluding the Namib Desert. Uncommon along the north-western escarpment. Abundant in a number of squares in the central highlands, and one of the dominant woody species on the plateau just south of the central highlands.

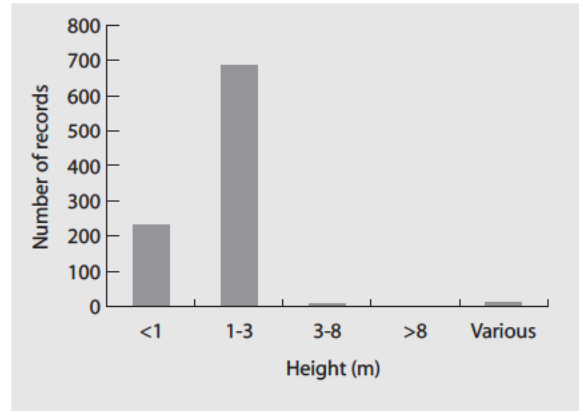
### HABITAT

Various, but mainly on plains and along dry rivers. Also found on hills in the central highlands and in the south, and on dunes in the south-east. Substrates included sand, sandy loam, rock, stones, limestone and gravel.



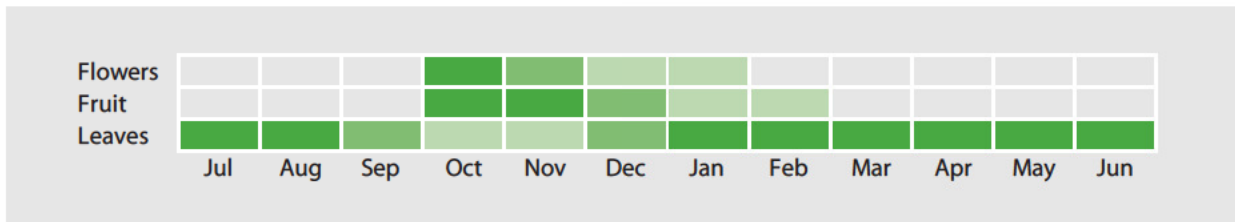
### GROWTH FORM

Generally a shrub in the 1–3-m height class, but often less than 1 m; rarely over 3 m.



### ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS October to January, with old flowers recorded almost every month. FRUIT October to February. LEAVES present on some plants the whole year round; bare plants mostly recorded between September and December.



### GENERAL

This shrub is browsed by eland and goats, and the flowers are visited by numerous insects. The plant thrives on road verges, and it has been noted (BES1) that it tends to increase where other species have been cleared, especially in the Okahandja district. It belongs to the Bougainvillea Family. Also recorded under the common name 'ITuses' (THE1, 2516AD).

### CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.

*Phaeoptilum spinosum*, pods and flower buds, B. Curtis

