

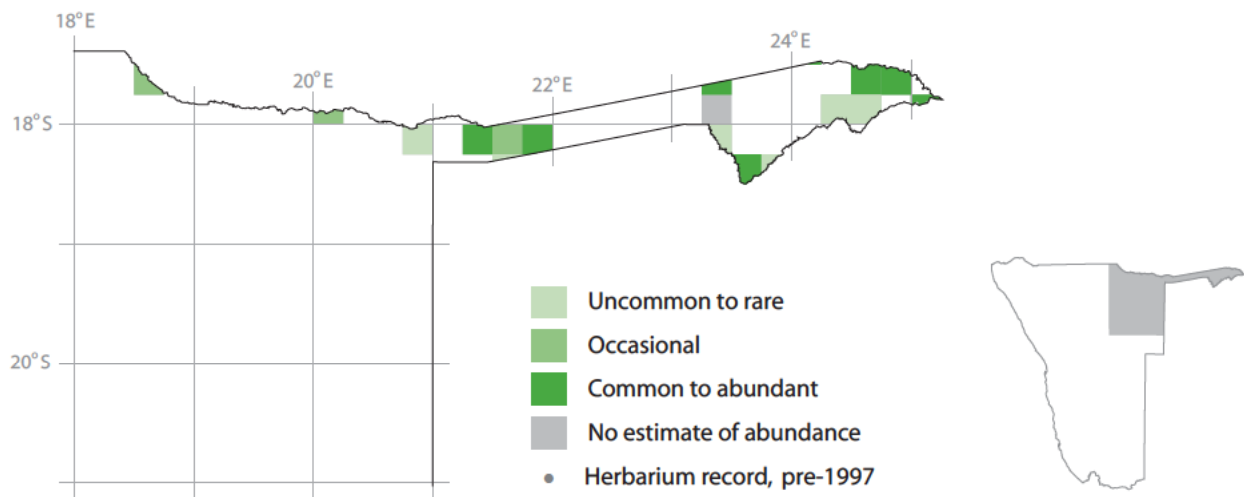
Phoenix reclinata

Wild Date Palm

Wildedadelpalm (A); jokarekare (J);
sipupa (L); sikereva (Rk)

[36 records from 18 (2%) squares]

Single- or many-stemmed palm. LEAVES with **feather-like shape**, 3–4 m long, mostly clustered at the end of the stem. INFLORESCENCE a large spray; male and female flowers on separate plants. FRUIT ellipsoid, yellow-brown, up to 25 mm long, resembling a cultivated date, but smaller and less fleshy.

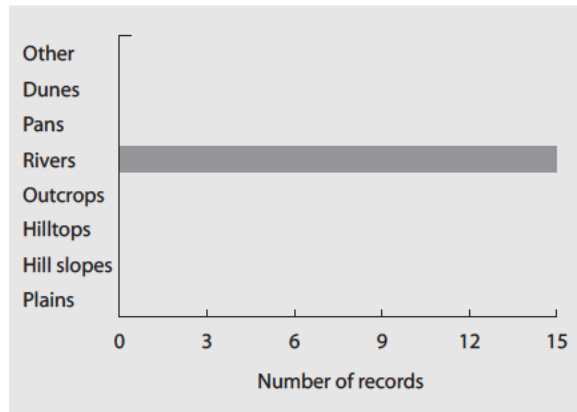


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Common along all the rivers in eastern Caprivi; uncommon to common to locally abundant along the eastern section of the Okavango River; uncommon along the western Okavango.

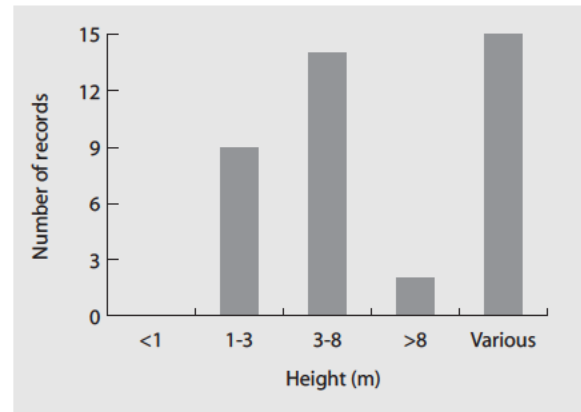
HABITAT

On river banks in areas of riverine forest, as well as on floodplains in eastern Caprivi.



GROWTH FORM

A tree of up to 8 m high, occasionally higher in eastern Caprivi; many young plants, especially along the Okavango.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS a few records September and December. FRUIT some records November to March. LEAVES evergreen.

GENERAL

The fruit is edible. The leaves are used to weave baskets; an alcoholic beverage is made from the sap. As *P. reclinata* grows easily from seed, transplants easily and makes an attractive, evergreen garden plant, it has horticultural potential.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

Threatened by habitat destruction along river banks, especially those of the Okavango River.

ARECACEAE (PALMAE) | PALM FAMILY

This is a large, ancient, mainly tropical family of very distinctive tall, slender, generally unbranched trees or shrubs. All have extremely large, leathery, fibrous leaves which are palmately or pinnately compound, with the leaflets folded along the midrib. As monocotyledons, they lack the secondary thickening found in the dicotyledons, thus their trunks are soft and fibrous inside. Flowers are generally small, unisexual, in large sprays, with male and female on separate plants. Fruits usually have a fleshy outer layer, enclosing one to many seeds. There are a number of economically important products, such as the coconut, (*Cocos nucifera*), date (*Phoenix dactylifera*), African oil palm (*Elaeis guineensis*) and raffia fibres (*Raphia* spp.).

