

Rhus pyroides= *Rhus dinteri*

Fire-thorn Rhus

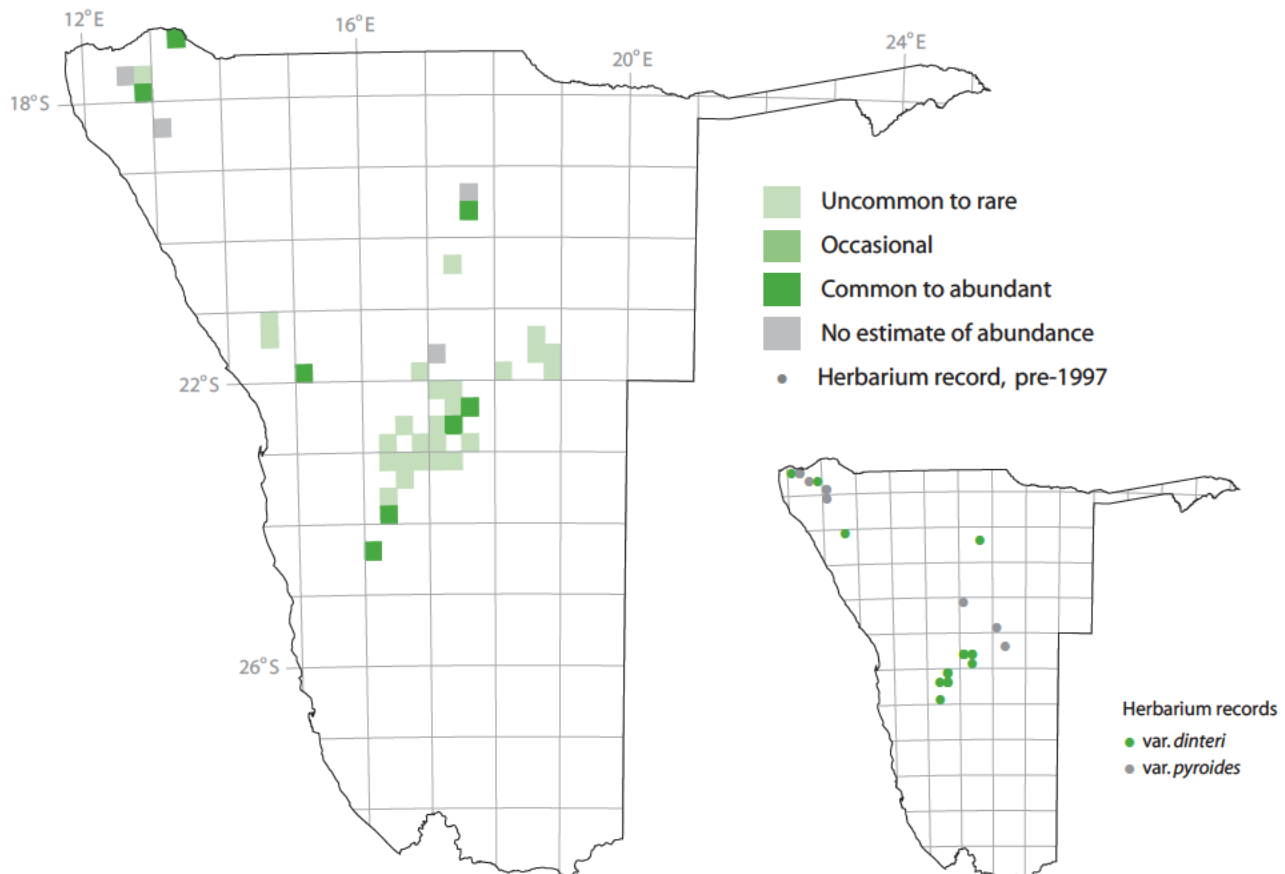
Common currant (E);
gewonetaaibos (A)

[61 records from 36 (3%) squares]



Evergreen, many-stemmed, dense shrub, **with or without spines**. LEAVES **both surfaces dark green with variable, white silky covering; margin entire, slightly turned under; apex with a fine, hair-like tip**; petiole with white, downy covering. FLOWERS tiny, star-like, greenish-yellow. FRUIT almost round, slightly flattened.

Flowers and fruit may be overlooked. There are two varieties in Namibia, *pyroides* and *dinteri*, but TAP records were seldom differentiated, thus the two have been treated together.

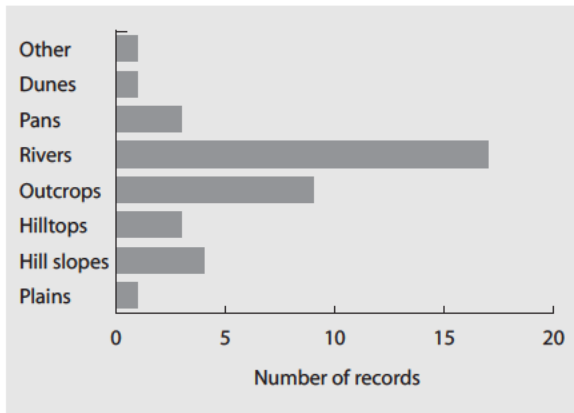


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Very disjunct, mainly in the central highlands, with a small population in the north-west and a few scattered, unconfirmed records elsewhere. There is a specimen from near Tsumeb in 1917BC (BAS1/101) which is a range extension. Atlassers recorded it from isolated localities along the Okavango River and in eastern Caprivi, but as these would be range extensions, and they were not accompanied by specimens, they have not been included. Uncommon to rare; sometimes locally common.

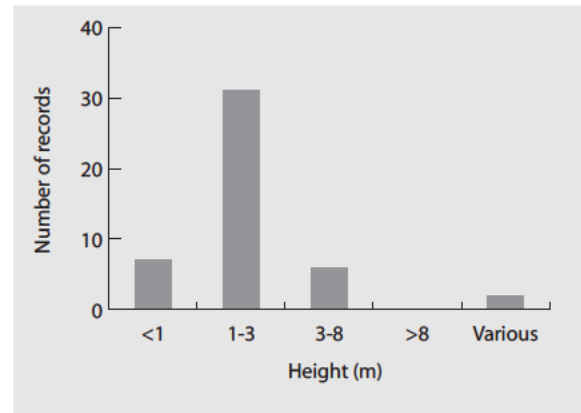
HABITAT

Mostly found along dry rivers, but also on rocky outcrops and hills.



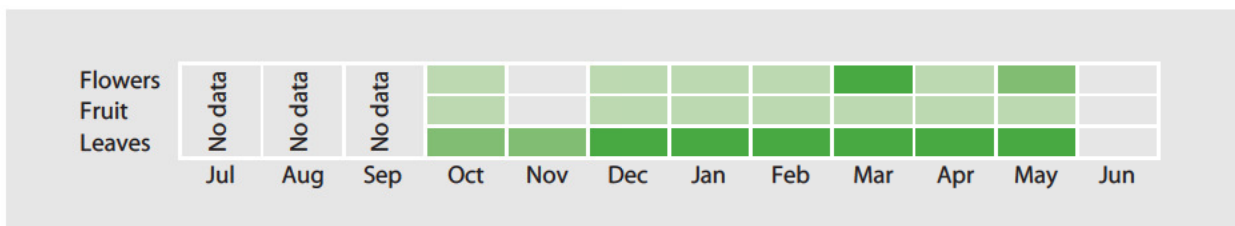
GROWTH FORM

Generally a shrub in the 1–3-m height class, sometimes over 3 m.



ANNUAL CYCLE

Very few observations of flowers or fruit. FLOWERS October to May, peaking in March. FRUIT October to May. LEAVES recorded on every report, but observations few in winter.



GENERAL

Fruit edible. A scratch from the thorn burns for some time. The specific name, *pyroides*, means 'like a pear tree'.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.