

Salix mucronata

Wild Willow

Wilgerboom (A); Kapweide (G);
omurambandu (H);
maandumuka (L)

Graceful shrub or tree with **drooping branches**. LEAVES simple, green above, grey-green to silvery below; margin entire to finely serrate. INFLORESCENCE an axillary spike; male and female flowers on separate plants. FLOWERS inconspicuous; female flowers green; male flowers with yellow stamens. SEED bears a **silky hair tuft** for wind dispersal.

There are two subspecies in Namibia, with distinctly different leaf sizes and shapes and different distributions.

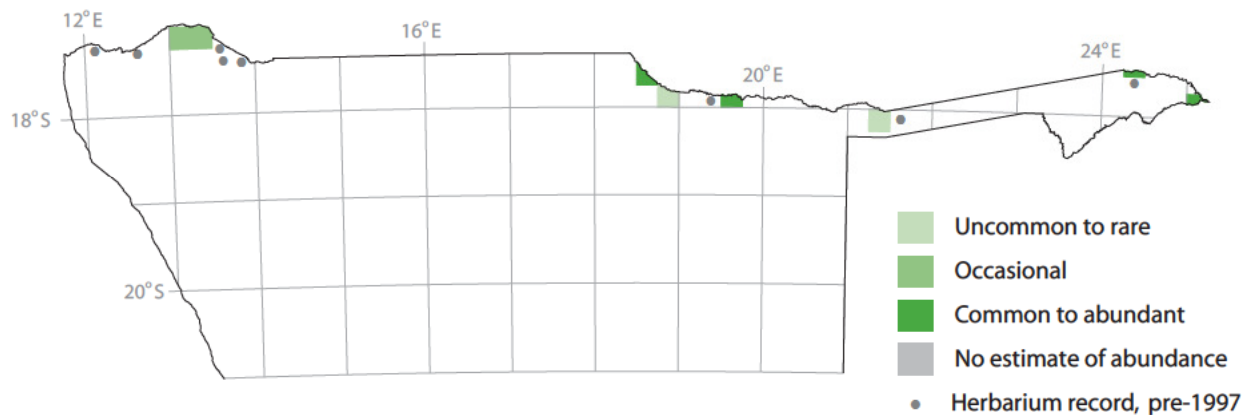
S. mucronata subsp. *mucronata*

= *Salix subserrata*

Safsaf Willow

[13 records from 9 (<1%) squares]

Generally shorter than subsp. *capensis*; up to 4 m high. LEAVES narrowly ovate to broadly lanceolate to oblanceolate; 12–30 mm wide and 3–5 times longer than wide, petiole often reddish.



In strict taxonomic order, this should come before Myricaceae and Celtidaceae.

DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Occasional along the Kunene and Okavango rivers; locally common along the Zambezi River. Apparently absent from the Kwando-Linyanti system.

HABITAT

The banks and islands of perennial rivers.

GROWTH FORM

Mostly a tree in the 3–8-m height class, but higher on Impalila Island; sometimes a shrub of 1–3 m.

ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS recorded in August, October, December, March, May and June. FRUIT recorded in March and September. LEAVES evergreen.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

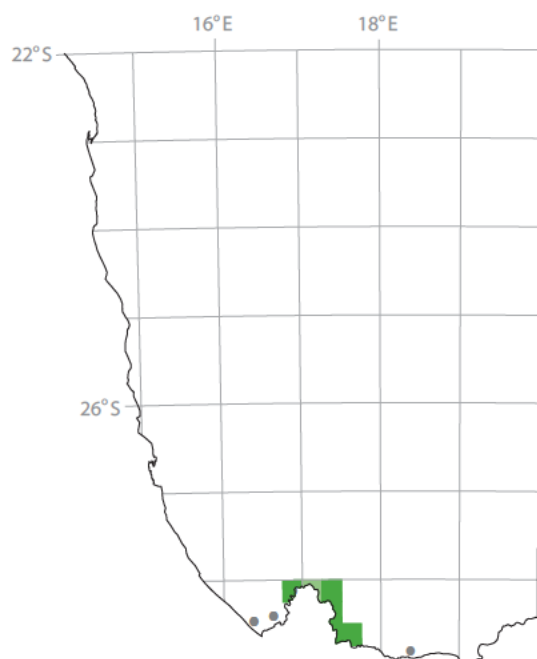
The lack of TAP records from the lower Kunene River could be as a result of the loss of this species or due to lack of recording, and is worth further investigation. The species could be adversely affected by further damming of the Kunene River. Protected by forestry legislation.

S. mucronata subsp. *capensis*

Small-leaved Willow

[21 records from 8 (<1%) squares]

Generally over 8 m high. LEAVES narrowly lanceolate, less than 15 mm wide and more than five times longer than wide.



DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Abundant along the lower Orange River.

HABITAT

The banks and islands of perennial rivers.

GROWTH FORM

A tree of up to 8 m tall and over, often shrub-like.

ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS September to February. FRUIT September to November. LEAVES evergreen.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

Potentially threatened by the increase in wood collection along the river due to new commercial developments. Protected by forestry legislation.