

Securidaca longepedunculata

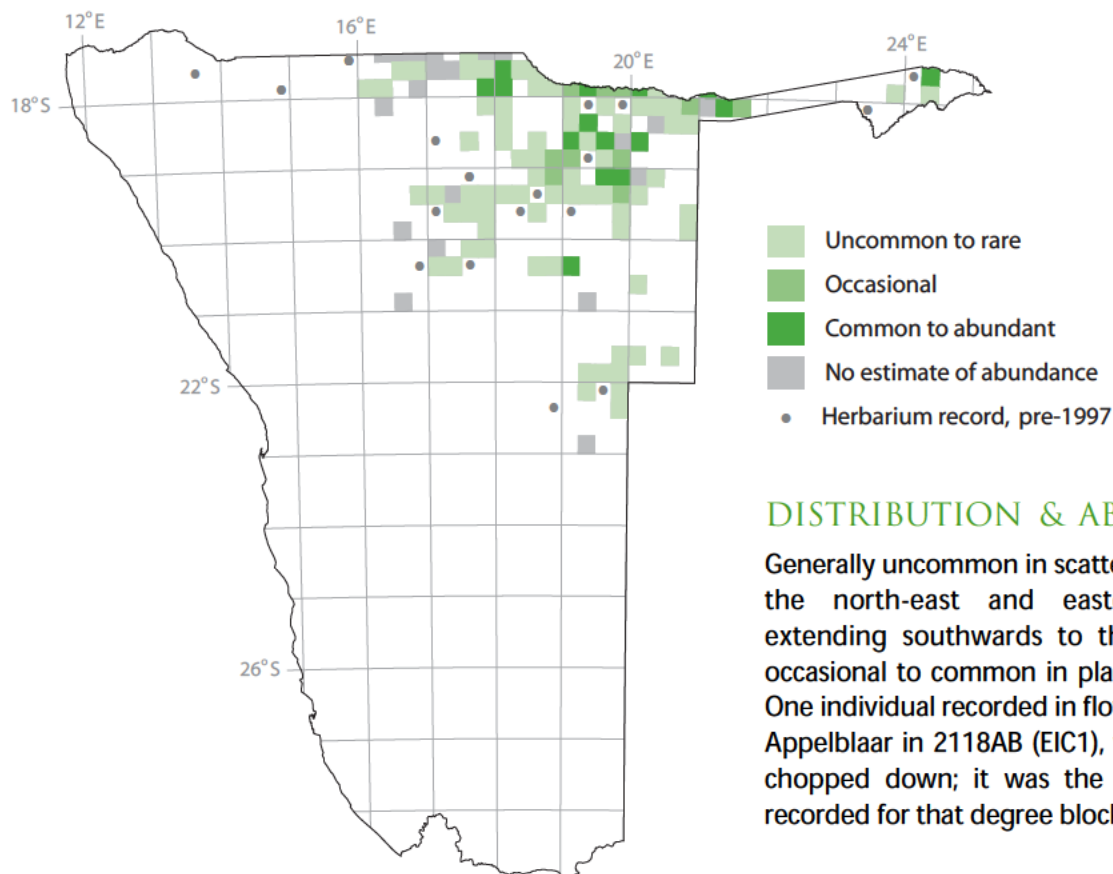
Violet-tree

Krinkhout (A); omudiku (O);
mungombe (Rk); muviyu (Rum)

[226 records from 117 (11%) squares]



Slender, deciduous tree. BARK smooth, pale grey with horizontal markings. BRANCHLETS spine-tipped. LEAVES simple, elliptic to oblanceolate; both surfaces dark green and finely downy. FLOWERS pink to deep purple with crinkled petals, up to 10 mm long, sweet-smelling, on long slender stalks in small clusters, appearing with the young leaves. FRUIT a nut, initially purple-green but straw-coloured when ripe; one-seeded, with wing along one side, broad, up to 40 x 15 mm.

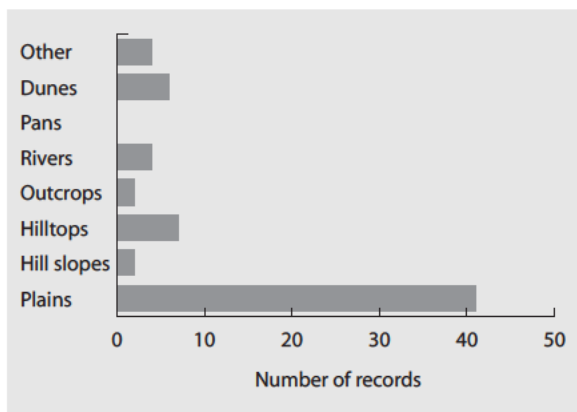


DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Generally uncommon in scattered localities in the north-east and eastern Karstveld, extending southwards to the central-east; occasional to common in places in Kavango. One individual recorded in flower on the farm Appelblaar in 2118AB (EIC1), which was later chopped down; it was the only individual recorded for that degree block.

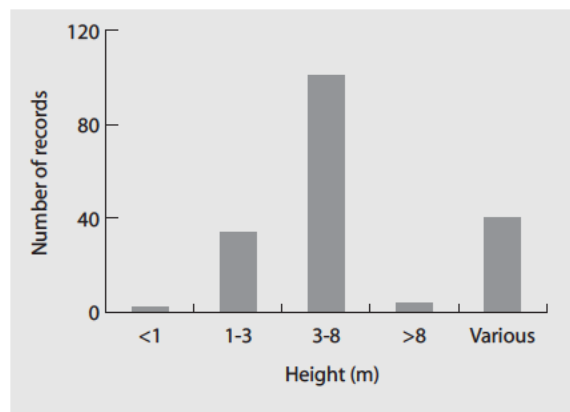
HABITAT

Various habitats, but mostly on sandy plains; also along rivers and on dunes in the north-east. Generally growing on deep sand or sandy loam; one record from crevices in granite hills. It seems to like the vicinity of dolomite rocks (HOF1).



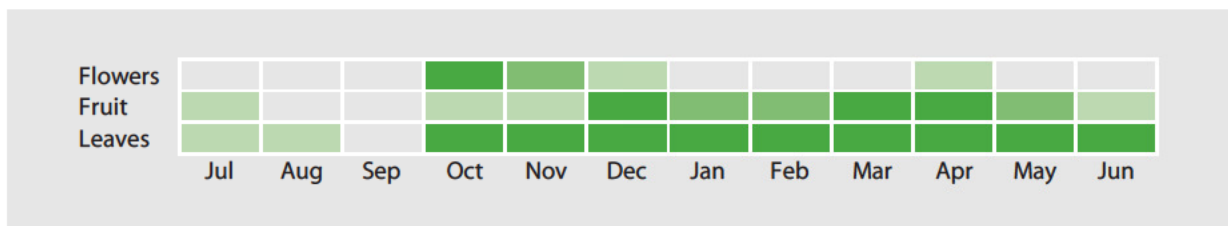
GROWTH FORM

A tree in the 3–8-m height class, rarely taller, but often less than 3 m; occasional records of young trees.



ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS October to December, with occasional records in April in some years. **FRUIT** mainly December to May, with two peaks. **LEAVES** mainly October to June, with young leaves in October.



GENERAL

Browsed by game. The leaves and roots used medicinally; the bark, seeds and roots are used as soap; the bark fibres are woven into rope and other materials. Some parts of the plant are toxic. Although it would make a good garden tree, it is apparently not easy to cultivate, and must be protected against frost. The specific name, *longepedunculata*, refers to the long flower stalks.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.

Securidaca longepedunculata, C. Mannheimer

