

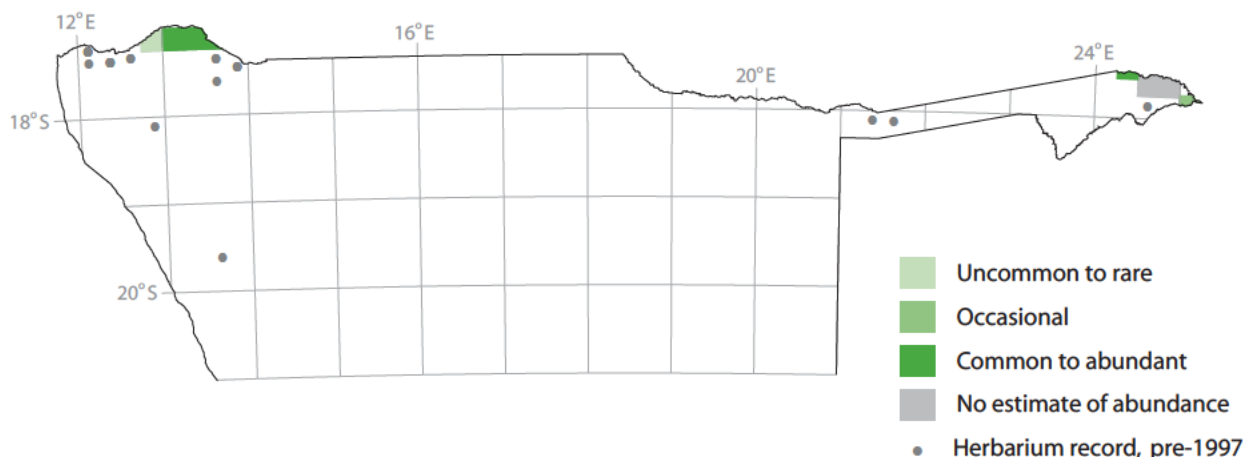
Sesbania sesban

River-bean

Rivierboontjie (A); malonga (L); ombudje (O)

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

A shrub or short-lived tree, with slender trunk. LEAVES twice compound, spirally arranged, with **6–27 leaflet pairs**; leaflets sessile, oblong, 5–26 mm long. FLOWERS **yellow, sometimes with a greenish tinge**. FRUIT a long and narrow, straight to slightly curved pod, sometimes slightly twisted; straw-coloured to red-brown. SEEDS rattle inside the pods when the wind blows.



DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE

Common along the Kunene and Zambezi rivers only. The records from the Zambezi River are a range extension to earlier herbarium records; there are, however, more herbarium records from the lower Kunene than were recorded by the TAP.

HABITAT

River banks and floodplains.

GROWTH FORM

A tree (60% of records) or shrub (40%) in the 1–3-m height class; occasionally over 3 m high.

ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS & FRUIT intermittent records throughout the year. LEAVES probably deciduous; too few observations.

GENERAL

Leaves and young branches are browsed by livestock and game. Worldwide, the species is in demand because the leaves are considered a good feed supplement for ruminants. It is planted to increase soil fertility.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

None recorded.

The genus *Sesbania* has eight semi-woody species in Namibia, of which three are over 1 m high. Only *S. sesban* has been included here as the other two are very softly woody and not very tree-like at all, and were not recorded by atlasers.